

Happiness 398-407

The Promise of Happiness

### Chapter 398

Melissa bit her lip. "Must we switch seats? Can't you just say it from here?"

"Well, it's inconvenient if you're in the middle. Be a good girl, okay?"

Yandel coaxed Melissa. Even if she was unwilling, she could only obediently switch seats with Yandel.

After the two are seated,

Yandel deliberately looked at Yara's face passionately.

"Mr. Moss, when can I go for an audition?" Yara asked.

"Whenever you want. You decide." Yandel's eyes were shimmering with endless kindness. "Right now, there's no other woman who could be more suitable for the role than you in my mind."

Yara was covertly delighted, yet she pretended to be reserved.

"Am I really that good?"

"You're perfect. It's unbelievable."

Yandel didn't touch his fork at all. He only stared at Yara the whole time.

His behavior...

It was as though he wanted to devour the woman in front of him instead of the dishes on the table.

Sumptuous and lavish dishes were served at the dining table.

The warm atmosphere became gradually strange as Yandel and Yara chatted and laughed.

Melissa grit her teeth and bit her lip. She was feeling extremely displeased.

That secretary jinted it! Yandel is really seduced by Yara. Yara already have Samuel and they even have a pair of twins. So why? Why would Yara want to take Yandel away from me? The shawl Yara wore today was decent, and it covered her shoulders. But her skirt is so short. It must be that she wants to attract Yandel's attention! It looks like she's not satisfied with Samuel alone. How shameless!

Melissa couldn't bear it anymore. She threw the cutlery in her hand on the table, making a loud bang.

"Yara, we're having dinner here! Why are you talking about work? You're ruining my appetite!"

"If you don't have an appetite, then eat lesser." Yara ignored Melissa's tantrum.

I think you have gained some weight recently. Eat less. It's okay for a girl to lose some weight."

Witnessing the exchange between the two sisters, Yandel smirked.

"Melissa, your sister is right. Indeed, you look a lot chubbier than her."

Melissa was unfazed when Yara commented on her weight. Now that Yandel also chimed in, her expression became even uglier.

“Yandel, are you bewitched by my sister?”

“Why would you think so?” Yandel replied calmly. “I’m just chatting with Yara. There’s no need to get angry.”

“But you haven’t taken your eyes off her since she came downstairs!” Melissa confronted Yandel. “You are mine. You cannot look at her! You cannot talk to her!”

Tsk, Tsk, Tsk!

At that moment, Yandel didn’t know where Natalie was watching the scene from. But he was deeply amazed by Natalie’s impeccable foresight.

The Nichols family was really full of drama queens.

“Melissa, you’re not related to me yet. You don’t have the right to order me around.” Yandel’s face turned completely cold.

However, Melissa had already lost her cool. She kept shaking her head desperately. “I’m already your girlfriend, but you won’t admit it! Are you being heartless toward me because this lustful woman is seducing you?”

As soon as she finished, Thomas, who was silent the whole time, slammed the table with his palm.

Thomas had wanted to speak up since the beginning, but he held his voice to maintain courtesy. However, he didn’t expect Melissa to be outrageous enough to describe Yara as a lustful woman.

## **Chapter 399**

Thomas voiced out as the head of the family and Melissa was stunned.

For a moment, the atmosphere fell into cold silence. As though one could hear the sound of a pin drop.

Even after being lectured, Melissa was still concerned about Yandel, She subconsciously looked at Yandel only to find out that his eyes were still fixed on Yara without even glancing back at her.

It wasn’t like this when Yara wasn’t here.

“Dad, did I say something wrong? Yara already has Samuel! Why is she here seducing Yandel!” Melissa lost her composure and yelled. “She’s the one in the wrong. Why are you scolding me instead of her!”

Melissa felt that everything fell from heaven to hell though she did nothing wrong.

She was so aggrieved that her eyes turned red, and her face twisted.

Seeing that Melissa had lost her composure, Thomas raised his hand and slapped her out of anger.

Slap! A palm print appeared on Melissa's petite face.

"You.

"Melissa, I told you to shut up! Didn't you hear me!" Thomas was trembling in anger.

"You're just biased and in favor of Yara!" Melissa's tears kept falling. She said hoarsely, "She's your daughter, but I'm your daughter too! Why do you treat me this way?"

Melissa picked up the cutlery and plates in front of her slammed them to the ground, making a mess. Then, she turned around and quickly ran upstairs.

Yvonne was also aware that Melissa behaved a little outrageous that day, but Melissa was still her daughter.

Besides, she was not blind either.

When Yandel and Yara were talking about filming in such an intimate manner at the dinner table just now, Yara was acting smug the entire time. She didn't consider Melissa's feelings at all.

No wonder Melissa got so angry!

"Do you feel good after scolding her? Are you satisfied now?" With tears in her eyes, Yvonne asked Thomas in a plaintive tone before turning around to chase after Melissa.

Thomas stood still without moving a muscle. He didn't know where to put his face.

"Yara, aren't you being too inconsiderate toward Melissa?"

"Dad, it's you and Aunt Yvonne who have spoiled her. You stopped her from going crazy in front of our guests, yet she dares to lash back at you." Yara put down the fork in her hand and said coldly, "Tell me, I'm just discussing work with Mr. Moss. Where did I cross the line?"

Thomas was rendered speechless by Yara's words.

"Mr. Moss, I'm afraid we'll have to talk about the audition another day," Yara said.

"I'm available anytime," Yandel responded helplessly, "However, it doesn't seem suitable for us to continue our conversation today. Mr. Thomas, Yara, I'll take my leave then."

"Yandel, why don't you leave after dinner?" Thomas urged Yandel to stay.

"I've lost my appetite." Yandel replied indifferently, "I thought Melissa would be a thoughtful person, but now it doesn't seem to be the case."

As he finished, Yandel winked at Natalie, standing in the corner.

Natalie immediately understood his intentions. He took Yandel's coat and followed behind him as he left the Nichols residence.

As soon as they got out of the Nichols residence, Natalie licked her lips relentlessly. Her eyes were sparkling with gratification.

"Boss, have you already predicted that my seduction would work?" Yandel asked curiously.

“I was almost certain.” Natalie grinned slyly. “It seems that the Nichols family is far less united than I thought. Despite having you as an outsider, they didn’t bother to hide their ulterior motives.”

“So, do you really plan to use Hurricane’s bait to reel in Yara?”

“Who the hell is Yara?” Natalie sneered, “She’s a pawn at best. I’m not stupid enough to give her any benefit.”

Yandel knew that Natalie wouldn’t be fooled easily. Thus, he didn’t ask any more questions.

Natalie rejected Yandel’s offer to send her home as she wanted to be alone for a while.

She bought some fried chicken and two cans of beer. Then, she sat on a bench in the park next to the street and looked at the half-moon in the night sky.

## **Chapter 400**

Although it wasn’t a full moon that night, the moonlight was beautiful.

The winter breeze was chilling when it blew by her face. Natalie’s nose was a little red, but she didn’t care.

After drinking a sip of beer, she felt a sudden ecstatic sensation as the bubbles in her beer grazed the walls of her throat.

Witnessing the Nichols turning against each other was highly pleasurable for her. Feeling satisfied would be an understatement.

It was just an overture to her concerto of revenge.

But she was also looking forward to what was about to happen next.

In the car.

Christopher gently stroked the small porcelain vase with his fingers.

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His eyes were glimmering, and his lips smiled subtly.

He hadn’t seen her since his last birthday.

It’s just Natalie...

Christopher thought he would be able to forget her.

However, he realized now that he was wrong.

It was tough for a person who had seen the light to return to complete darkness.

After all, he had seen the light, so he could never go back.

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Christopher's eyes unknowingly glanced out the window. That was when he saw a slim and beautiful figure drowning herself on a bench by the street under the moon.

He had never seen that adorable face before.

However, the intelligence that glistened in those eyes was imprinted in his memory

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At a glance, he recognized that it was her. –

Fate had led them to each other.

So she had more than just the previous mask.

“Stop the car,” Christopher uttered.

Nicholas immediately stepped on the brakes.

“Mr. Christopher, what's the matter?” Nicholas asked as he was confused.

“You may go back now. You don't have to send me tonight.” Christopher sounded a little mischievous.

“Yes.” Nicholas nodded.

Before Christopher stepped out of the car, Nicholas glanced at him and caught a hint of merriment in his eyes, as though he spotted an enticing prey.

Nicholas had seen those eyes before.

Those were the eyes that Christopher had when he looked at Natalie.

Christopher got out of the car and walked slowly toward Natalie.

At that moment, Natalie was drinking the second can of beer. Her eyes were curved as if countless stars were falling into her eyes.

As the pair of custom-made leather shoes entered her field of vision from a distance, she slowly raised her face and focused on Christopher's face that was delicate enough to be indistinguishable between male and female.

No way. This is too melodramatic. Why... Why is he here?

Natalie bit her lip and whispered in her heart.

She believed that it would be impossible for Christopher to recognize her under an entirely different hyper-realistic mask.

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Thus, even if he was here, Natalie was very calm. However, Christopher grabbed her wrist in the next second.

“Mister, what... what are you doing?”

Natalie deliberately changed her voice, planning to pretend to be a stranger to Christopher. But he remained unfazed and held her hand tightly.

“You left without saying goodbye at my birthday party, and now you want to pretend that you don’t know me?”

A hint of astonishment bounced off Natalie’s eyes.

Christopher began to smile. “Natalie, no matter how real the skin looks, your facial bone structure will not change. Do you really think that you can fool anyone with the fake skin on your face?”

Natalie looked at Christopher in disbelief.

After all these years of flawless disguise that could even deceive Yandel and Ross, her ability to disguise herself turned into something trivial in the presence of Christopher. As if he could see through it at a glance.

Natalie, whose cover had blown, simply stopped pretending and asked, “When did you find out?”

“When did Samuel find out?” Christopher answered Natalie with another question.

Natalie pursed her lips as she was unable to answer his question.

Christopher was too clever. So clever that he could notice the split second of Natalie’s hesitation and guess her thoughts.

“Natalie, Samuel never actually found out, right?”

## **Chapter 401**

Natalie glared at Christopher.

“The man who likes you cannot even tell that your face is fake?” said Christopher sarcastically. “If you remove that hyper-realistic mask of yours, will he be able to differentiate between you and Yara?”

He had lost the mining project to Samuel.

However, he had no intention of losing the woman he liked to Samuel again.

Moreover, there were other business domains that he could venture into, but Natalie was not someone that he wanted to lose. Christopher was not sure that he would meet another woman like Natalie again.

He could not seem to forget about her.

Now that she had appeared in front of him with her guard down, he was unable to resist her warmth.

Natalie gave Christopher’s question a serious thought.

A moment later, she said, “I trust him. He will not confuse me with other women.”

“If he truly understands and loves you so much, how come he cannot even tell that you are in disguise?” asked Christopher coldly.

“It isn’t that he doesn’t understand me. He knows how to respect me.” Natalie looked up and continued, “He may or may not have spotted my disguise. But unlike you, he will not remove my hyper-realistic mask without my permission. He certainly won’t question me like this. He will wait for me to tell him the truth whenever I am ready.”

That was the kind of man Samuel was.

Samuel was a powerful man who gave her a sense of security.

If Christopher could see through her disguise, there was no reason to think that Samuel could not.

He was just playing along with her.

“Let go.”

Christopher pretended not to hear her. Instead, he held Natalie’s hand even tighter.

The very next second, Natalie bit Christopher on his hand when he was not looking.

It was such a strong bite that she could smell blood.

Christopher was in such pain that he let go of Natalie’s hand immediately.

She quickly ran away from him and disappeared.

Snow began to fall.

The snow fell on the man’s body, but he was oblivious to it. He bit his lips, and a strange ache came from his chest.

He was so besotted with her that it was impossible for him to give up.

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If she belonged to Samuel, then he would have to defeat Samuel and take her away from him.

Natalie hailed a cab and returned to the Bowers residence.

Before she reached back, Natalie changed into her usual hyper-realistic mask and returned to a state of normalcy.

Once she was home, Gavin told her that the four little fellows were already fast asleep.

Natalie went to her children’s room, made sure they were covered snugly and kissed them all on their foreheads before returning to her own room.

After her shower, Natalie gave Samuel a call.

“Are you home yet?” asked Samuel in a deep and affectionate voice.

“Yes.”

There was so much that Natalie wanted to say, but all of a sudden, she did not know where to start.

She really could not care less if Samuel was aware of her disguise. What mattered to her most was his love and respect for her. He made her feel safe.

“Samuel, it’s snowing..” Natalie choked up as she mumbled.

“It’s the same here too.” Samuel’s magnetic voice had a hint of regret.

At that moment, Samuel really wanted to have Natalie by his side with his arm around her slim waist, and the both of them watched the first snowfall of the season together.

Natalie smiled. “The snow is beautiful.”

“Yes.”

“When I look at the snow, I think of you. Even though we may be apart, it feels like we are together when we are looking at the same snowfall,” said Natalie with a wistful smile.

“That sounded so sad. It doesn’t suit us.” Samuel said in an unprecedented tone, “I, Samuel Bowers, will never ever let you down.”

## **Chapter 402**

The next morning, Natalie went down for breakfast after washing up.

She had just put down her fork when the four kiddos sat down at the dining table.

“Mommy, did you have enough to eat?” asked Xavian with a cheeky grin. “The week is almost up. You should take Sophia in as your student!”

So, that’s why the four of them are behaving so obediently today. It is because of Sophia.

Natalie knew what was going on, but she pretended not to know. “You want to be my student? Sure. But, do you still remember the requirement? Do you remember the poem that I wanted you to recite? If you can do it at one go without a single mistake, then I will accept you as my student.”

“Mommy, back then, you only mentioned reciting it. You didn’t say she has to do it at one go!” Clayton was worried for Sophia and voiced his objection.

Franklin chimed in as well, “That’s right. You didn’t say she has to get everything right too!”.

“I didn’t say that? Hmm... I cannot remember. Anyway, it’s the same even if I mention it now.” Natalie propped her face on one hand and said disapprovingly, “If Sophia thinks that my request is too much, and she can’t fulfill it, then it’s fine. I can pretend that none of these has ever happened before.”

At that moment, the three boys started to panic.

On the contrary, Sophia seemed very calm. “Fine.”

Natalie looked at Sophia with admiration.



Sophia might appear weak, but she was very strong internally. She reminded Natalie of herself when she was younger.

Back then, her mother had every intention to teach her about medicine, but she would still make things difficult for her. However, she would suck it up and never give up.

All of a sudden, Natalie felt that Sophia was similar to her in terms of her looks and height.

Sophia really looked a lot like her younger self!

Natalie shook her head and hurriedly cleared that thought out of her mind.

This is getting too ridiculous. How can I like Sophia so much that I start to think that she may be my daughter?

Regaining her senses, Natalie said, "All right. Start then."

"Okay."

Sophia cleared her throat, but the three boys seemed to be more nervous than she was. They kept their eyes on Sophia.

Sophia began reciting the poem as requested.

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Her young and sweet voice might be reciting a poem that even grownups found it hard to fathom, but there was no sign of struggle on her young face. Judging from her recitation, it was obvious that she was not doing this from pure memorization. Instead, she could understand the meaning behind the words she was reciting.

It was a long poem.

Natalie did not interrupt her recitation. She listened to Sophia in all seriousness.

Once Sophia had completed her recitation of the poem, Franklin, Clayton, and Xavian started applauding. Even Gavin and all of the housekeepers applauded as well.

Sophia walked up to Natalie and asked with anticipation, "Was that okay?"

"Of course. From today onward, I will start teaching you the basics." Natalie caressed Sophia's tiny face and continued, "Studying medicine is hard. But if you can withstand hardship, then you will be able to learn well. When you get older, regardless of what is going on in your life, always remember that the purpose of learning and practicing medicine is to help the injured and the sick."

Sophia nodded. "I will keep that in mind."

The three older boys were very happy for Sophia and went forward to hug her.

Looking at how close the four of them were, Natalie could not help but smile.

Although she had lost a boy and a girl, God had been kind and sent Franklin and Sophia to her.

Meanwhile, the atmosphere in the Nichols family was still gloomy.

The slap mark on Melissa's face was still very clear. She had been bawling her eyes out till they were red and swollen.

She felt that Yara was responsible for her sorry state. At that thought, she lost all control and dashed into Yara's room.

Melissa did not knock before entering. When she got in, she saw Yara getting her nails done.

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## **Chapter 403**

After the humiliation that Melissa had suffered, she was extremely unhappy.

The moment she saw Yara acting like nothing had happened, she blew her top. "Yara, this is all your fault! If it wasn't because of you, I wouldn't have ended like this!"

"You are my half-sister after all! Why are you so useless?" Yara raised her eyebrows and rolled her eyes with disdain. "It's all because of me? Are you positive that Yandel actually likes you? Or it's just wishful thinking on your part all this while?"

"How dare you say that!" Melissa yelled. "Yandel came here because of me! He has always treated me well until he met you!"

Melissa's tantrum was starting to piss Yara off.

Who the hell does she think she is? Not only did she insult me yesterday in front of everyone, but now she still has the guts to come and provoke me! Just because she's my sister does not give her the right to do this! If I can burn my own sister alive, what makes her think that she can talk to me this way? Does she really think she is the little princess of the Nichols family?

Yara threw the opened bottle of nail polish at Melissa.

In an instant, Melissa's white sweater was splattered with nail polish, and she looked like a dog with spots.

"H-How dare you do this to me!" howled Melissa.

"Melissa, watch yourself." Yara grabbed Melissa's face with one hand and smiled viciously. "You exist because your mother is a homewrecker. How dare you challenge me? Even if I wanted Yandel for myself, there's nothing you can do! All you can do is look on like an idiot!"

Yara squeezed so hard that Melissa's cheeks turned red and swollen.

Melissa was in such pain that she glanced at Yara and started gasping for air.

"Just because I don't do anything to you doesn't mean I won't!"

To Yara, killing Melissa would be as easy as squishing an ant.

With that, Yara released her hand.

Melissa fell to the ground and eyed Yara with hatred.

“Melissa, let me warn you. Don’t stare at me like this! If you do it again, I will-”

Before Yara could finish her sentence, Melissa cut her off.

“Franklin and Sophia aren’t your children!”

Yara’s face immediately turned pale, but she put on a tough front.

“What nonsense are you talking about?”

“Yara, I’m not talking rubbish. You should know this better than anyone else!” Melissa stood up and smiled. “If Samuel asks for a DNA test between you and Franklin and Sophia, won’t the truth reveal itself? Samuel has never really wanted to marry you. If he finds out that you aren’t their biological mother, do you think he will still want to see you again?”

Every single word that Melissa had said struck a nerve for Yara.

“H-How did you know about this?”

“I came across your health checkup report by accident. According to the report, you have never given birth before. How can Franklin and Sophia be your children? No matter how stupid I may be, certain things are too obvious. You are just using Franklin and Sophia to get into the Bowers family.”

Melissa closed in on Yara until Yara had no choice but to start retreating.

“I knew about this three or four years ago. But I decided to keep this a secret because I genuinely want you to marry Samuel. That way, I get to enjoy a better life as your sister.”

“Melissa, are you sure you didn’t tell anyone? How about Aunt Yvonne?” Yara got scared and started to tone down a lot.

“I didn’t, but I changed my mind now.” Melissa chuckled. “You took Yandel away from me, and yet you still dared to treat me this way. I’m going to expose your true colors in front of Samuel!”

Everything that Yara had done was to make sure she could marry Samuel.

She could not afford to lose everything because of Melissa.

Thump!

Yara gritted her teeth and got down on her knees.

## **Chapter 404**

“Yara, are you afraid now?” Melissa squeezed her face like how she did to her earlier on. “Look at you now!”

Yara was so furious that she wished she could tear Melissa to pieces.

However, the moment she recalled that Melissa knew about her secret, she had no choice but to suppress her anger and be submissive.

“Melissa, although we have different mothers, I have always treated you nice most of the time, haven’t I?”

“My dear Yara, that wasn’t what you said just now when you were teaching me a lesson!” Melissa put on an innocent front, but she had a smug look in her eyes.

“Melissa, I beg of you. Please don’t tell anyone about this,” pleaded Yara. “If the Bowers family knows the truth, they won’t let me off. At the same time, they won’t let the Nichols family off either. When the reputation of the Nichols family goes down the drain, what’s going to happen to your future? Why don’t you keep this secret for me? Once I am married to Samuel, I will try my best to find a good husband for you..”.

Melissa was not an ambitious person.

She was aware that she was not particularly intelligent. All she wanted was to fall in love with a wealthy and handsome man and marry him. As long as she could enjoy a life of luxury, she would not ask for much.

That was why she was tempted when she heard what Yara said. “Really? Are you lying to me?”

Yara threw her a question back. “You have my secret. Why would I be lying to you?”

“That’s true.” Melissa released her hand and straightened her back. “If you don’t find me a good husband, then I will tell the Bowers family about your secret! I doubt you will have the guts to lie to me again!”

“Yes, you’re right.”

Melissa left Yara’s bedroom.

As Yara was getting up from the floor, her eyes were filled with pure evil.

Melissa, Melissa. You are indeed a young lass with such a simple mind. Why would I let you hold me hostage! Only dead men can keep their mouths shut and never reveal any secrets. Just wait and see! I’m going to find an opportunity and shut you up forever!

On the days when Samuel was not around, Natalie would split her time between the coroner’s office, Dream Corporation, and the Bowers residence.

When she was at home, she would spend most of her time teaching Sophia about traditional medicine.

Natalie had intentionally slowed her pace of teaching in case Sophia found it difficult to understand.

However, Sophia’s level of understanding and progress had far surpassed Natalie’s expectations. Sophia was a fast learner. It was as if she was born to study medicine.

Natalie was surprised by Sophia’s talents. Her mommy must be a very smart woman too.

The two of them were at it for three to four hours.

Gavin brought cakes and milk for Sophia and the three boys.

The four of them were feeling hungry and could not wait to devour the cakes.

Gavin teased, "The three boys dote on Ms. Sophia a lot. Even when she is studying, they will keep her accompanied. The way I see it, the four of them are as close as real siblings..."

"Yes, they are... They are like real brothers and sister."

Natalie looked at the four of them enjoying their cakes and mumbled to herself over and over again.

She wished that the twins, who had been taken by Yara, were still alive.

If Yara wanted her dead, there was no way she would keep the twins alive.

Natalie could not help but shake her head. Perhaps, she was missing them too much. That was why she was having crazy thoughts.

Just then, Natalie's phone rang.

She put down her fork and walked to the window to answer the call.

"It's me." Lia sounded panicky. "Yara has contacted me again and wants me to deal with you. What should I do? What should I do now?"

## **Chapter 405**

"Don't panic," Natalie uttered nonchalantly.

Panic-stricken, Lia pressed her palm hard on her chest and gasped. "I'd already caused you trouble once and almost met my end! If I were to do it again, I would surely put someone's life on the line again. How could I pay the price for my grievous deed if any mishap occurs again?"

Natalie snorted. "I didn't say that you have to put anyone's life on the line, did I?"

"Did you manage to come up with an idea?" Lia asked eagerly.

"Ms. Johnson, even if I can resolve the problem for you this round, it doesn't mean that I'll be able to keep helping you with that. You know it too well that your inner demons are the root cause of everything, don't you? As long as you don't eliminate it, you'll never be able to be your own self," Natalie uttered solemnly.

On the other side of the line, Lia clenched her fists as she mumbled, "My... my inner demons."

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"Are you willing to make a bet to find out how important you are to Lionel?" Natalie asked subtly.

"Make a bet? In his eyes, I'll be his sister forever. Since I've known about it long ago, what's the point for me to do so?" Lia mumbled self-deprecatingly.

“It’s up to you. Anyway, I will give you three days to think about it.” The next moment, Natalie hung up on her.

It’s merely a matter of opinion when commenting about right and wrong. Hence, she could not jump to a hasty conclusion about the previous matter related to the Johnson family.

Natalie was willing to help Lia as she did not wish to see her fall into Yara’s trap and get exploited to carry out any heinous deed again. Thus, she thought of pulling Lia out of the predicament before it was too late. Nonetheless, the final decision was in the latter’s hands.

Three days later, Natalie was savoring wine in a private room in The Moonlight. Shortly after, Lia pushed open the door and entered.

“Have you made up your mind?” Natalie cut to the chase.

Lia nodded earnestly. “Yeah, I’ve thought it through. I’m willing to give it a try. After all, nobody else can help me now other than you. After sitting on this for two days, I realize sooner or later I’ll have to part with Lionel, regardless of how much I love him. Thus, I would rather talk myself to have a clearer insight into the whole matter. It’s pointless for me to cry over spilled milk when he finally thinks of marrying another woman one day.”

After taking a sip of her wine, Natalie beckoned to her with a smile. “Come over. Let me tell you the first thing you need to do.”

Lia nodded and leaned closer to her.

Moments later, she hesitated upon hearing Natalie’s words, but she remained silent.

In the meantime, Yara went to the Hamilton residence to see Scarlett. She was the apple of Charles Hamilton, the patriarch’s eye. Apart from having a stunning look, she was a very capable young woman.

On the other hand, Zayden, her younger brother, was a flamboyant womanizer. There was a rumor that he had even caused the tragic death of some women in bed.

Since then, Charles was totally disappointed with him and doted on Scarlett even more.

Meanwhile, Scarlett was deemed one of the most fabled socialites in Dellmoor. She was just back from furthering her studies overseas in the past two years.

Guided by the housekeeper, Yara entered Scarlett’s bedroom after passing through the lavishly designed corridor. |

At the sight of the impressive design of the Hamilton residence, Yara could not resist feeling jealous and clenching her fists again,

Even though she was the eldest heiress of Dexmed Pharmaceutical, she was not comparable to Scarlett, a direct bloodline of the prominent family. Regardless of how Kenneth backed her up, she knew she could never exude the vibe of dignity as a socialite of a prestigious family like Scarlett:

Soon, she stepped into Scarlett’s study

Looking stunning with her long wavy hair, the latter shot Yara a glance with utter disdain amid hostility in her eyes. She closed the book in her hands and looked intently at Lia. "What a great surprise! I almost couldn't believe it when the butler notified me moments ago that you were here to see me. Yara, I'm sure you know better than anyone else that I've been loathing you since two years ago. Because of the Bowers family, I've not inflicted any harm on you. After all, we are supposed to have no trucks with each other, aren't we? It never crosses my mind that you have the guts to come straight to see me!"

## Chapter 406

It had been two years since they last met each other. Surprisingly, Scarlett was even more gorgeous than ever.

Lia bit her lips and cut the crap. "Scarlett Hamilton, even though you're just back to Dellmoor, I'm sure you know that I'm still not accepted as a member of the Bowers family, don't you?"

In an instant, Scarlett burst out laughing disdainfully.

Stroking her wavy hair alluringly, vicious words escaped from her luscious red lips. "Do you think the Bowers family will let you marry Samuel just because you've given birth to the two children? You thought they could be your trump cards for you to make fool of the prominent family, didn't you? You're just overestimating yourself and building castles in the air! Don't forget that you've set Samuel up in bed, and your two kids are just the Bowers family's illegitimate children. You're just too naive by thinking of manipulating everything with your underhand tactics. Pfft! I'm sure Samuel will never marry you!"

Scarlett's mockery turned into a dagger that pierced through Yara's heart, shattering her self esteem. D\*mn it! I've spent so much time scheming everything, but it turns into your laughing stock! Anyway, I'm sure there will be a twist soon. Scarlett Hamilton, when I become Samuel's wife one day later, it will be my turn to step on you then!

Stifling her abhorrence, Yara refuted casually, "No doubt, Samuel won't marry me. But he won't marry you too!"

"Who the h\*ll do you think you are? How dare you jump to such a conclusion?" Scarlett fumed; a hint of fury flickered in her beautiful eyes.

Yara chuckled and sneered, "You don't believe me, do you? Regardless of how I set Samuel up in bed with your so-called underhand tactics, I'm still Franklin and Sophia's biological mother. Not to mention, I'm the only woman who'd ever spent the night with him before. But now he's falling head over heels for another woman. In fact, his devotion toward her is beyond your imagination. He even brings her back to the Bowers residence, paying no heed to Old Mr. Bowers's objection!"

Undoubtedly, she loathed Natalie. In order to let Scarlett go through the same torture as her, she added insult to injury by adding, "He loves her very much. He even told me that he would only love her for the rest of his life..."

Scarlett's pupils constricted instantaneously. She had been deeply in love with Samuel for many years. Nonetheless, he had an indifferent temperament and never spared any woman any glance. The twins

were his only stain in his private life. Even after spending the night with Yara, he remained virtuous and never entered into a relationship with any other woman. How could he suddenly have a soft spot for a woman who pops up from nowhere?

Astounded by Yara's words, Scarlett retorted, "That's impossible! Samuel couldn't have said so!"

Yara advanced toward her and added fuel to the burning fire. "Why do you think it's impossible? Don't you know that Samuel never brings any woman back to the Bowers residence? Even I, the

biological mother of Franklin and Sophia, didn't get to stay overnight there whenever I went over to visit my children for the past five years. But now, he willingly let this woman stay there. Do you still think that I'm pulling your legs?"

"Yara Nicholas, I bet you must be having ulterior motives to come and see me today. Apart from giving me a massive blow by telling me this, aren't you thinking of talking me into colluding with you? What makes you think that I'll do that?" There was an unmissable hint of smugness in Scarlett's eyes.

Looking intently into her eyes, Yara uttered subtly. "Scarlett, don't you know that there are no so called everlasting friends and enemies? Undeniably, both of us have the same goal since there isn't any woman by Samuel's side all these years. Now that there's a woman who can win his heart, I'm sure you won't wish to see her end up marrying him, right? If you're willing to join hands with me, we can get rid of her at any time. I don't see any reason you will turn me down on that."

Yara knew the tactic of deluding Scarlett's mind with words would work with her eloquence.

After pondering for a while, Scarlett nodded. "Okay. I agree to join hands with you."

Finally, Yara managed to win her over.

Blinking her eyes with an innocent look, Yara leaned closer to Scarlett and whispered to her, "Shall I brief you on my idea?"

## **Chapter 407**

Time flew by, and half a month had passed.

At the Hamilton residence located in the suburbs of Dellmoor, Natalie was dressed elegantly in a dark blue gown. The unique design contoured her flawless shoulder line, and her waist looked exceptionally slim with a waist belt. Even though there were no other eye-catching elements on her gown, she was still giving off the vibe of sheer dignity.

Meanwhile, Yana, who was almost at the end of her first trimester, looked gorgeous in her white gown. For the sake of her baby, she did not tighten it to reveal her waistline.

The moment Natalie's figure came into view, Yana quickened her pace toward her.

In the meantime, Hans' heart skipped a beat at her agility. "Yana, slow down," he called out to her hastily.



Yana chuckled. "I've not met Natalie ever since our previous gathering in the bar. Of course, my heart leaps with joy when I finally have the chance to see her again now. Can you stop restricting me as usual?"

Holding onto Natalie's arm, she let out a sigh admiringly. "Oh! My Natalie looks even more gorgeous now! I can barely take my eyes off you!"

Shaking her head, Natalie laughed out loud. "You're indeed playing favorite to me. Don't you see that are freckles scattering all over my cheeks?"

She did not have any chance to tell Yana and Hans the truth yet. Thus, they were unaware that she was wearing a hyper-realistic mask.

"What's wrong with me playing favorite to you? Your facial features may not meet the expectation of the current trend of beauty in general, but your kindness and compassion toward the unfortunate ones have caught my eye. To me, that's your greatest charm!"

Hans approached them and echoed, "I agree with Yana. Genuine beauty can't be judged by looking merely at the physical appearance. Anyway, beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder. One who can see through your inner beauty will surely share the same sentiments with us!"

Natalie could not resist blushing at their compliments. "If you continue to flatter me, I'll be triumphant like an inflated balloon!"

The next moment, all three of them burst into laughter. -.

By the time Jason and his wife, Hannah, approached them, he could not help but smile blissfully at their laughter.

"What's so funny? Mind to share with me?" he joked.

Hans briefed his father-in-law on their conversation moments ago and even mimicked Natalie's tone exaggeratively. Subsequently, Jason also laughed heartily. "Hans and Yana, I agree with you. Natalie, it's indeed my blessing to have you as my god-daughter!"

Natalie blushed again and uttered coquettishly, "Ah! Godfather, why are you playing favorite to me with Yana and Hans too?"

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It was indeed a joyous family of five. Natalie's heart was filled with warmth whenever she was with them. Needless to say, everyone from the Weiss family was good-natured. Not to mention, all of them treated her as if she was one of the Weisses. Before that, she never had a sense of belonging at the Nichols residence. It never occurred to her that she would be able to get a taste of the familial bond that she had been longing for from the Weisses.

Moments later, Jason led them into the Hamilton family's manor with his invitation card. They were there to attend the birthday banquet specially held by Charles for Zayden.

The Hamilton family was one of the most prestigious families in Dellmoor. They were from a military background and used to trade firearms. Even after the trading was later strictly prohibited by the nation, the Hamilton family managed to stand out as one of the most influential families in Chanaea.

As it was still one hour to go before the banquet started, well-dressed guests were socializing among themselves outside the hall. Shrouded by the golden glitter of the sunset, they were chattering and clinking glasses jovially with each other.

Jason and Charles were close friends. Thus, he led Natalie and the others toward the inner hall too. However, Charles only let Jason enter the inner hall as he preferred to have private conversations with close friends.

Meanwhile, Natalie and the others stood outside the inner hall while waiting for Jason.

In the meantime, Scarlett approached them from nowhere. Dressed elegantly in a pink sequined lace gown, the high split revealed her slender legs with every single movement when she strutted toward them.

“Yana?” she called out abruptly. ||

“Scarlett, you’re back!” Yana was surprised to see her.

Since Charles and Jason were in a close relationship, Scarlett and Yana tended to know each other. Not to mention, they were about the same age. Thus, they could recognize each other with just a glimpse.

Shortly after, Scarlett switched to gaze at Natalie standing alongside Yana with hidden hostility in her eyes.