

Happiness 408-417

The Promise of Happiness

Chapter 408

Scarlett could not resist scoffing inwardly as she scrutinized Natalie. What an ordinary-looking woman, let alone the freckles scattering on her cheeks! How could she catch the eye of such an omnipotent man from a prominent family like Samuel?

She had been restraining herself from revealing her affection toward Samuel. Even so, her self-restraint was gone within seconds when she found out he had a fancy for such a plain-looking woman! Deep down, she wailed indignantly. No way! I can't accept it!

Sensing Scarlett's penetrative gaze on Natalie, Yana asked quizzically, "Scarlett, is there anything wrong?"

Forcing a smile, Scarlett uttered casually, "Oh! Nothing. I'm just feeling curious as I've never met her before. Yana, you seem to be close with her."

Yana explained preemptively, "She's my younger sister."

Even though Scarlett had known that Natalie was Jason's god-daughter long ago, she pretended to question with a look of innocence, "Ah! I never knew that you have a younger sister! Could it be your dad... cheated on your mom?"

Yana smiled and cut her off instantly. "Haha! Don't overthink. Natalie is considered my benefactor, and my dad likes her too. That's why he suggested taking her as his god-daughter so she'll be part of the Weiss family. Thus, we'll bring her along to attend any special occasions before she's married."

"Oh, I see." Scarlett nodded and stretched out her hand to Natalie. "I'm Scarlett Hamilton. Nice to meet you."

"I'm Natalie Nichols. Nice to meet you too," Natalie responded courteously and shook hands with her.

Not long after that, Scarlett left after having some small talks with them.

Natalie could not refrain from furrowing her brows as she gazed at Scarlett's retreating figure. She could not take a liking to this socialite with an impressive vibe of dignity.

After the session with Charles, Jason and the others left the inner hall and continued mingling with other guests.

Standing right in front of the buffet cart, Natalie was mesmerized by various types of luxurious alcohol. She could barely wait to have a taste! Undoubtedly, the Hamilton family is filthy rich! They can even afford to provide various types of alcohol of such high quality for the guests to drink to their hearts' content!

Soon, she chose a glass of her favorite wine and headed toward a secluded spot to enjoy herself.

The faint light from the moon high up in the sky cascaded down the side of the swimming pool.

At the same time, the night breeze blew against her long hair as if someone was ruffling it mischievously. Gazing at the pool with the reflection of the moonlight, she took sip by sip of her wine quietly.

Natalie's message notification tone suddenly sounded, and she realized it was a message from Lia. After catching a glimpse of it, the glint in her eyes turned cold gradually. Hmph! It never crosses my mind that Yara Nicholas will go to that extent! How dare she schemes to inflict harm on me in the Hamilton family's manor!

As she took another sip of her wine, a cold glint flashed across her eyes.

"Hey, beauty! Which family are you from?" All of a sudden, a man's frivolous voice sounded behind her.

Tightening her grip around her wineglass, Natalie turned a deaf ear to him.

Even so, he continued to utter lecherously, "Ha! We can't judge the quality of the wine just from the texture itself! A gorgeous woman tends to have a temper too. Thus, I won't mind your bad temper. I like it! Don't you know that I'm The Fabled Mr. Hamilton? It only turns me on when you give no hoot no me!"

The Fabled Mr. Hamilton? I bet Zayden Hamilton is the only person who will address himself this way! By the way, he's known for his infamy. What a pain in the neck! Natalie decided to stay far away from him and leave at once.

Nonetheless, Zayden stood in her way when she lifted the hem of her dress.

"Hey, where are you going? Raise your head so I can see your dainty face!" he yelled out desperately.

Seconds later, he stared at her face in disbelief under the moonlight. It was the total opposite of what he had imagined. He expected the woman with such a captivating figure must have a dainty, charming face. Unexpectedly, she looked relatively plain.

Feeling a prickle of disappointment, Zayden's face turned grim in an instant. He rebuked, "D*mn it! What an ugly-looking wench!"

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Initially, Zayden had a hunch that Natalie must be a gorgeous woman at the sight of her captivating figure. Only then did he notice that her face was a stark contrast to the one in his imagination.

"D*mn it! How could you have the body of an absolute stunner but turn out to have such a repulsive face!" Zayden spat on the ground in a grimace.

In the meantime, Natalie's eyes were turning cold gradually. Earlier on, she heard how others gossip that Zayden was a good-for-nothing heir spending extravagantly, leading a promiscuous life, and indulging himself in gambling. So it's not just a rumor!

"Watch your mouth!" She snickered in dismay.

Zayden guffawed as if he had just heard the funniest joke in his life. "Watch my mouth? Don't you know who I am? Those who dare to ask me to do so have breathed their last breath! If not, they're already in their old age and will meet their end at any time!"

"It never strikes me that our respectful Old Mr. Hamilton will have such a good-for-nothing grandson like a thrash!" Natalie sneered.

Her mockery sent Zayden into a frenzy. He turned crimson fury and bellowed, "Bloody h*11! Who's a thrash? How dare you get on my nerve by reprimanding me in my face! You must be asking for trouble! Since you don't seem to have any ideas about good manners, I'll enlighten you on that!"

The next moment, he stormed toward Natalie to give her a slap.

Even so, she managed to dodge swiftly and stretch out her leg at him.

The agitated man had lost his balance earlier on. When Natalie stretched out her leg, the situation was exacerbated.

Splash! After swinging his arms frantically to balance himself, he still ended up falling into the swimming pool, resulting in massive splashes.

As it was winter, the pool water was barely more than five degrees celsius.

The moment Zayden fell into it, his teeth started chattering uncontrollably. Apart from that, tears flowed down his cheeks like streams.

"I'm so cold! It's freaky cold here! Hurry up! Pull me out of the pool!" Gritting his teeth, Zayden shrieked at the top of his lungs.

Crouching down at the side of the swimming pool, Natalie smirked at Zayden's dishevelment. She uttered placidly, "Mr. Hamilton, did you manage to cool your head off by soaking yourself in the icy-cold water? Don't ever think that you can have the whole world in your grasp just because you are from the Hamilton family. Anyway, the most capable person amid everyone from the

family is Old Mr. Hamilton, your so-called person in his old age and will meet his end at any moment. Not to mention, you'll never be comparable to him. Stop picking on the others by making use of his name!"

The next moment, Natalie lifted her dress and turned to leave.

Panic-stricken, Zayden squealed, "Pull me out of the pool! If you dare to leave without saving me, I won't let you off! Come back! Hey! Come back now! I'm talking to you! Don't you hear me?"

Shaking her head resignedly, Natalie heaved a deep sigh. It seems even the icy-cold pool water can't wake him up from his dream. He hasn't learned his lesson at all. Now that the hiccup has finally ended, I'd better leave and get back to the banquet hall at once.

On the way back to the banquet hall, Natalie bumped into Lia.

Wearing a look of anxiousness, something was bugging her mind. "Ms. Nichols, I have something to tell you. Can we go somewhere?" Lia uttered sheepishly as she advanced toward Natalie.

“What’s so secretive? Why can’t you tell me here?” Natalie questioned in bafflement.

Wringing her hands unknowingly, Lia replied apprehensively, “It’s inconvenient to have a talk here. In my opinion, it’s better to look for a quiet place so we can have a private chat.”

Natalie nodded and followed her in silence to one of the secluded corners in the manor.

When they came to a halt, Natalie broke the silence. “This is a hidden spot. I guess it’s an ideal spot for you to pour out the things to me now.”

With her fingernails sinking deep into her palms, Lia looked up at her and mumbled, “I’m sorry.

“Hey, relax! You look as if the world is tumbling down. Why are you apologizing to me now? You’ve already explained to me that the previous incident whereby you vomited blood at the banquet was just an accident, haven’t you? Thus, you don’t have to say sorry to me again. I’ve made myself clear at that time that I’d forgiven you, didn’t I?” Natalie asked her in bafflement.

The next moment, Lia inched toward her with a hint of ferocity in her eyes. “Things are not as simple as what you think. Natalie Nicholas, the previous incident was not an accident. What’s going to happen soon is not an accident too. You only have yourself to blame! If you don’t end up in h*ll today, I’ll have to be the one!”

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Seconds later, she whipped out a white cloth, covering Natalie’s nose and mouth with it.

“Hmm...” Mustering up her strength, Natalie tried to shout. Her eyes widened in utter disbelief as she stared at Lia.

There was an unmissable sense of hesitation in Lia’s eyes. Even so, she never loosened her hands as her lips tightened into a thin line.

When Natalie finally closed her eyes and stopped struggling, only then did she loosen her hands.

Looking at Natalie, who had already slumped onto the floor, Lia’s chest heaved in anxiety. She stammered feebly, “S-She has passed out. I’ve accomplished the mission you assigned me.”

Her words were transmitted by the wireless communication device hidden in her earrings to the other end of the line.

Yara Nicholas is indeed a demon under the disguise of an angelic figure! Lia used to think that Yara would not put her in a tight spot if she obeyed her. Nevertheless, the malicious woman had been taking control and making use of her in carrying out heinous deeds.

“Lia, it’s not enough even after she has passed out.” Yara’s voice sounded from the other side of the wireless communication tool.

“What do you want me to do again?” Lia asked hesitantly.

“Do you see the warehouse behind you? The door is not closed properly. You can push it open,” Yara replied slowly.

Lia pushed the door hard as instructed by Yara. The moment it opened, there was a strong gust of chilly wind that was even more frigid than the one on a winter night.

Apparently, it was not an ordinary warehouse, but cold storage where fresh food was kept in the manor. Even though Lia was only standing at the entrance, she was already shuddering due to the utterly low temperature.

“I want you to drag her inside,” Yara uttered, laid-back as if she was savoring her afternoon tea.

Lia could not resist but refute in fear, “If I drag her inside, she’ll be dead! It’s at least ten degrees Celsius below the freezing point inside the cold storage warehouse. She might not even be able to stand for half an hour inside and survive the extreme temperature!”

“So what? After all, she’s just a nobody. There’s nothing to be bothered about her. You should worry about yourself instead. Don’t you know that the surveillance cameras had captured how you drugged her? If we hand the surveillance video to the police, you won’t be able to clear your names by all means. By then, I’m curious how your beloved brother will react once he finds out that you’re the murderer!” Yara sniggered.

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“Yara Nicholas, how could you set me up?” Lia gritted her teeth in utter abhorrence.

Chuckling in sheer smugness, Yara scoffed, “Instead of blaming me for setting you up, you should blame yourself for being naive! Since you are set up to this extent, I advise you to continue bowing to me. It’s pointless for you to pull out now.”

Standing in front of the cold storage warehouse, Lia remained silent for quite a while before she snapped, “All right. I promise you. But I hope this is the last time. If you dare to threaten me again after this, I vow to take you down!”

To Yara, Lia was just a weapon to finish Natalie off. She would be like a useless item after accomplishing her mission.

“No problem. I promise you,” she reassured Lia.

In the meantime, she was in the study of the manor. After hanging up, she picked up her wineglass from the desk and approached Scarlett to watch the surveillance video together with her.

In the video, Lia was dragging Natalie, who had passed out moments ago, into the cold storage warehouse. After a while, she closed the door, dragging her feet away.

Flashing Scarlett a smile, Yara lifted her wineglass. "Ms. Hamilton, everything goes well as planned. I've done my part as promised. After this, it's your turn to play your part well. Let's have a toast and wish that our operation tonight will turn into a success."

She thought of clinking glasses with Scarlett, but the latter gulped down the wine in her wineglass.

"Initially, I keep racking my brains why you're the only one who could set Samuel up in bed. But now I seem to get it. You are not only a manipulative woman but also one without a sense of shame. I bet none of the women will be able to act as shamelessly as you!" Scarlett uttered softly, but her words were as venomous as snakes.

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Yara could understand what Scarlett was implying, so she stealthily tightened her grip on the glass but maintained her smile. Just who does Scarlett think she is! She's just lucky to be born as the only granddaughter to Old Mr. Hamilton. Even though the Hamiltons are a thousand times more influential than our family, I have Grandpa backing me. On top of that, I also have the twins. Scarlett may be cocky right now, but she has no idea that her days on the pedestal are numbered. For now, I'm going to let her have her fun since she's indispensable to my plan. But when I become the head of the Bowers family, I'll make sure she pays for all her mockeries.

Yara then took a sip of red wine before responding, "As crafty as I am, I've never spent a night at the Bowers residence, unlike Natalie. That woman has spent countless nights there."

Skillfully, Yara had diverted all attention onto Natalie, whose unremarkable features and freckled cheeks were all Yara could think of when she mentioned the woman.

"I just don't understand what Samuel sees in a woman like that!" exclaimed Scarlett irritably.

Yara raised her eyebrow proudly. "I don't think it'll matter anymore. At least not after what we've done tonight. Get someone to open the cold storage two hours later, and I'm sure they'll find a frozen corpse inside. We'll tell them that Natalie wandered around at your brother's birthday party and accidentally got herself locked inside the cold storage. And if anybody looks for someone to blame, we'll give them Lia. It's a perfect plan. Nobody will ever figure out what really happened."

Scarlett turned off the surveillance cameras before nodding in response.

"Just so you know, I would never work with you if it wasn't for Samuel," stated Scarlett haughtily.

"I understand."

As much as Yara hated to deal with Scarlett's insufferable attitude, she could not help but feel thrilled when she thought of how she could get rid of Natalie for good. Natalie has been a thorn in my flesh for the longest time. Now, it's finally time to wipe her off the face of the earth!

Meanwhile, after catching up with some old pals, Yana and Hans tried to look for Natalie but could not find the woman anywhere in the crowd.

“Hans, where do you think Natalie might’ve gone to? I swear I saw her just a moment ago. How does anyone just disappear like that?” inquired Yana curiously.

“She probably isn’t used to seeing this many people, so I’m sure that she must’ve gone somewhere quieter. Don’t worry about her for she’s not a child. I bet she found herself a nice spot where she could enjoy her drink alone,” assured Hans.

Even though Yana wanted nothing more than to believe what Hans said was true, for some reason, she was convinced that something was off.

Seeing how his wife remained anxious, Hans pinched her cheek playfully. “Relax. Your

pregnancy is probably to be blamed for your overprotectiveness. You know what a smart girl Natalie is, right? I doubt that any average Joe can take advantage of her. Instead of her, you should be worrying more about yourself. If you keep overthinking like this, Natalie might have to set you up with another treatment.”

In the end, Yana agreed to unwind a bit as suggested.

On the other side, Zayden finally managed to climb out of the swimming pool but was shivering because of how wet and cold he was. “That witch better hope that I never find her because if I do, I’ll make her wish that she was never born!”

Just when the man was hurrying back to the inner hall to get a fresh set of clothes, he bumped into Charles, accompanied by a gentleman in a jet-black suit.

The mysterious man had a pair of eyes that were mesmerizing but penetrating. It was as though they could pierce through one’s soul.

Charles’ face immediately turned red when he saw the state Zayden was in. “What the heck happened to you? Do you have any idea how ridiculous you look right now? I know it’s your birthday today, but this is not the way to celebrate it. This is unacceptable!

After roaring at his grandson, Charles turned to the gentleman beside him and spoke in a completely different tone. “Oh, how I wish my grandson can become half the man that you are, Samuel. Look at him. He’s a complete mess.”

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That was not the first time Zayden met Samuel, but he never liked the man.

When compared to someone as good-looking and respectable as Samuel, it was only natural for Zayden to get jealous.

The fact that Charles buttered up Samuel at his expense only served to fuel his jealousy.

“It’s not what you think, Grandpa. Why the heck would I get myself soaked like this? Surely you don’t think I deliberately made a mess of myself!” Frowning, Zayden tried to defend himself.

“Then why don’t you tell me what exactly happened to you?” questioned Charles sternly.

Zayden could feel his veins popping when he remembered how he ended up drenched. "A hideous woman pushed me into the swimming pool. It's true when people say that beauty comes from within. Someone as foul as her deserves to have a face full of freckles! That woman just ran off after kicking me into the pool."

A woman with a face full of freckles? And she has the guts to kick Old Mr. Hamilton's only grandson into the pool. Samuel knew that the one responsible for Zayden's situation was none other than Natalie, so instinctively, a smirk appeared on his face.

"Enough with your nonsense! Now go and get changed!" ordered Charles impatiently.

Knowing that it would be best for him to just do what his grandfather said, Zayden nodded in response before hurrying to get changed.

Charles then turned back to Samuel and sighed, "I apologize that you have to see that, Samuel. I mean what I said just now. You're a fine young man, and my grandson really could learn a thing or two from you. Zayden thinks that he can do whatever he wants just because he's a Hamilton."

"Then you should keep an eye on him. If he were to go after a woman dear to someone, I'm afraid that not even being a Hamilton would save him," reminded Samuel as he narrowed his eyes at the helpless-looking elderly man.

What Samuel implied was that he would not forgive Zayden if the man were to harm Natalie in any way. Not even if he was Charles' only grandson.

However, it completely went over Charles' head. The elderly man simply nodded before moving on to another subject.

After Zayden dried himself and changed into a fresh set of clothes, he went to see Charles.

"Now that's more like it," remarked the elderly man in a satisfied manner before continuing, "Go get your sister, Zayden. It's been a while since she and Samuel met. Now that she's back, I think they should catch up."

"Yes, Grandpa."

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Even though Charles was well aware that Yara and the five-year-old twins were still around, he still hoped to marry his granddaughter to Samuel for his personal gain.

The old man also knew that it would be much easier for Zayden to take over the family business if the two families became in-laws and combined their businesses.

That was the reason Charles would not let go of any opportunity to play matchmaker between Samuel and Scarlett. ***

"Samuel, you should know that Scarlett has been studying business management abroad for the past two years, and she has achieved excellent results. Even her lecturers were very impressed by her performance there."

Charles would glow differently whenever he talked about Scarlett, for he was just that proud of his granddaughter. "Your grandfather and I are both old now. We can't move as much as we like, unlike you youngsters. You should spend some time making more friends. Trust me. It will do you good."

When Samuel heard Charles, he knew exactly what the elderly man was trying to do. "I only have eyes for one person, Old Mr. Hamilton. Although she doesn't get jealous easily, I think it's best that I keep my distance from other women. I prefer to avoid any misunderstanding. I'm sure you'll understand."

Samuel could not help but smile when he talked about Natalie, for he had nothing but fondness for that woman.

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Immediately, Charles' face hardened. "Wait a second. What is this? Are you in love, Samuel?"

"Yes, I am," admitted Samuel directly. "I don't doubt that Scarlett is a fine woman, but I have to respectfully decline meeting with her because I already have someone I want to spend the rest of my life with."

With his hope shattered, Charles was suddenly at a loss for words.

The two remained silent for a short while before Zayden and Scarlett walked over to them.

"Samuel, I heard that you were out of town when I came home from overseas, so imagine my surprise when I realized that you're here at my brother's birthday celebration!" voiced Scarlett excitedly while gazing intently at the man.

"I just so happened to close a deal early and managed to make it back in time. There's someone here that I haven't seen for a long time, so I decided to give her a surprise."

Someone he hasn't seen for a long time? Well, it has been two years since we last saw each other. Naturally, Scarlett assumed that Samuel was talking about her.

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"I'm sure that someone is very happy to see you too." Scarlett then tried to reach out and hold Samuel by the arm, but the man quickly got out of the way. "Samuel?"

"I have to go meet her soon, actually. In fact, I was just about to excuse myself." With that, Samuel had made it abundantly clear that he was not interested in Scarlett at all.

To avoid further embarrassment, Scarlett immediately withdrew her hands. Samuel has someone else he has to meet? He wasn't talking about me after all. Then it must be Natalie! Why would he choose her over me? What does that freckle-faced woman have that I don't?

Even though Yara had already told her about it, Scarlett was still surprised when she found out for herself. Luckily, we've already gotten her out of the picture. Natalie is probably a human popsicle in the cold storage by now. No matter how much Samuel loves her, he can't be with a frozen corpse, can he?

Although Scarlett was very pleased with herself then, she did not show it.

After Samuel left, Zayden turned to stare at her sister before teasing, "I know you like him a lot, but unfortunately, he doesn't seem to feel the same way about you, Scarlett. In fact, he doesn't look like he's even remotely interested in you."

"Stay out of my business!" warned Scarlett heatedly,

Although Charles did not appreciate Zayden's tone, he had to admit that his grandson was right.

"Scarlett, I know Samuel is definitely one of the most eligible bachelors, but the man has clearly fallen for another woman. You're not getting any younger, so why not consider somebody else? Remember. Time waits for no one. Trust me when I tell you that it's not worth it," Charles gently

reminded his granddaughter.

However, since she had already carried out her plan to eliminate Natalie, Scarlett was not about to just give up on Samuel.

"Samuel is just lost at the moment. The man doesn't really know what he wants, but I'm sure fate will point him in the right direction. It won't be long before he realizes that I'm the one for him," assured Scarlett with her head held high.

When they saw how persistent Scarlett was, Charles and Zayden decided to stop persuading her.

Meanwhile, Yana and Hans realized that Natalie had been gone for far too long. Even Old Mr. Hamilton and the Hamilton siblings are out. Where could Natalie possibly be?

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Yana was really getting worried about Natalie. "Hans, something is not right. I can feel it in my gut! I tried calling her. It went through, but nobody answered. I'm worried sick, Hans! You have to do something!"

Even though Hans thought Yana was overthinking at first, he started to get concerned as well when Natalie remained nowhere to be seen after a while.

"Just try to calm down first, Yana," comforted Hans as he patted his wife on the back. "You're with child now, so you can't get too emotional. Why don't you have a seat while we look for Natalie?"

Yana was so anxious that she could not just sit still. Fortunately, Hans' words of comfort were able to calm her down slightly.

"We owe Natalie everything, so you have to find her and make sure that she's safe. We're the reason she's even here tonight," requested Yana while biting her lips nervously.

"I promise you, Yana. Don't worry."

After leaving Yana, Hans hurriedly planned a search with Jason and Hannah. Then, the three put their wine glasses aside and began combing the place.

The Hamiltons had spent a significant amount of money on the decoration to celebrate Zayden's birthday, but Yana was too concerned about Natalie's safety to appreciate it. All she could do was stare at her phone and hope that Natalie would call her.

All of a sudden, somebody tapped her on the shoulder, and she thought that it was Natalie. "You scared the living crap out of me, do you know that, Natalie?"

Unfortunately, when Yana turned around, she realized that it was Samuel instead. "Oh, it's you, Samuel."

The man furrowed his eyebrows as he questioned, "Where's Natalie? Isn't she supposed to be with you? How come you're sitting here alone?"

Then, Yana's eyes turned red, and tears started to well up.

"Natalie. She's... she has disappeared, Samuel," stuttered Yana before proceeding to tell Samuel how Natalie had been out of contact for a while and that she could not seem to reach the woman.

When Yana was finally done explaining, Samuel's face turned grim while a daunting aura emanated from him. "How long ago was it since you last saw her?"

"It was two hours ago. At first, we thought Natalie sneaked off to enjoy her drink alone because she didn't like the crowd. We expected her to show up sooner or later, but she never did. And now I'm worried if anything bad has happened to her."

Samuel then glared at Zayden, who was addressing the crowd on the stage. Whether he has anything to do with Nat's disappearance, this party ends now.

"Stay here and don't go anywhere, Yana. I'll find Nat," promised Samuel before taking his phone out to call Billy.

After that, Samuel went up to Zayden and snatched the man's microphone. "Everyone, the party's over, so please leave this place now in an orderly manner. I know this must be upsetting to some of you, but my fiancée has gone missing. I have to find her no matter what. To make up for tonight, I promise to get Mr. Zayden a grand gift. And for his guests, you will also receive a gift as a show of my appreciation for your understanding."

As soon as Samuel was done talking, everyone at the party was in an uproar.

Hey, that's Samuel Bowers! Since when is he engaged?"

"His fiancée has gone missing. It's no wonder he seemed so anxious."

"Wow, this is the first time I've seen Samuel Bowers do something as impulsive as this. It looks like that woman must be very important to him."

"Well, he did say that we'll receive a gift if we leave now. So why not? I'm sure we're not going to get something cheap since it's Samuel Bowers."

Although the crowd came because the Hamiltons invited them, none of them would stand up for the family since the Bowers was also an influential family. Going against Samuel would not benefit anybody, so the crowd started to exit the place obediently.

Before Charles could say anything, Zayden shouted furiously at Samuel, "Just what the heck do you think you're doing? Do you think you can do whatever you want just because you're now the head of your family? This is my party! It only ends when I say so!"

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At that moment, Samuel was filled with so much rage that he seemed like he had been possessed by a demon straight from hell.

"Where did you hide her? Answer me now!" commanded Samuel after grabbing Zayden by the collar.

Zayden's anger was quickly replaced by fear when facing Samuel's fury, but still, he tried to put on a brave face. "I have no idea who you're talking about. What do you want, Samuel? What you did tonight was unacceptable. Not only did you disrespect me, but you also disrespect my entire family."

"He's right! You let go Zayden this instant!" Charles would never let anything bad happen to his precious grandson.

Scarlett, too, tried to stop Samuel by grabbing the man's wrist. "What are you doing, Samuel? I know you're angry that you can't find someone dear to you, but taking it out on my brother isn't going to help. Please just let him go!"

Still, Samuel would not listen to a word the Hamiltons said. With his eyes narrowed, Samuel tightened his grip as he continued to threaten Zayden, "I'm going to ask you one last time, Zayden. Where did you hide Natalie?"

As hard as Zayden struggled to break free, he could not. The man noticed that it was getting more difficult to breathe, so he started to panic.

"Who is Natalie? I don't know anybody by that name! I swear! How the heck am I supposed to hide someone I don't even know?" responded Zayden, grimacing.

"The woman who kicked you into the swimming pool. Where is she?"

"How is that related to the person you're looking for?" asked Zayden in a baffled expression.

"The woman who kicked into the pool is the one I'm looking for."

Immediately, Zayden felt relieved that he had not gotten the chance to get back at Natalie, for that meant he had nothing to do with the woman's disappearance. Gosh, that was close!"

I swear I didn't do anything to her, Samuel! If you want, I can swear on my whole family's life. I admit that I did think about getting payback, but I haven't had the chance to do anything like that yet. I really don't know where she has gone!"

For quite a while, Samuel said nothing but only scrutinized Zayden's face.

"If I find out that even one word that came out of your mouth is a lie, I will give you hell. I don't care even if you're a Hamilton. Do you hear me?"

"I would never lie to you. Never!" promised Zayden as he shook his head desperately.

Only then did Samuel let go of the poor man, who realized that his legs had become weak from fear.

Samuel then turned around to face Charles. "Old Mr. Hamilton, your family knows this place better than anybody else, so I'll need your help to find my fiancée."

"Of course."

Even though Charles was upset about Samuel's actions, he nodded and agreed to provide assistance anyhow.

When almost all the guests had left, Billy and his men arrived at the scene.

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Then, Samuel bid the Hamiltons farewell and left to join Billy.

Charles and Zayden were the only ones left in the room.

"What exactly does Samuel take us for? He disrespected us like we were nobody! And for what? A woman? Big deal! I'm sure there are hundreds of women waiting to take her place," scoffed Zayden after lighting up a cigarette.

Charles angrily smacked Zayden on the head for the young man's insolence. "Idiot! Do you even have any idea what you're talking about? Any fool could tell how hard Samuel had fallen for that woman. He'll probably burn the whole place down just to find her. Are you sure you have nothing to do with her disappearance?"

"As I said, I didn't do anything to that woman. It wasn't me! What? You don't trust your own grandson?" questioned Zayden rhetorically while rubbing the back of his head.

Chapter 416

"And whose fault is that? You've always been a troublemaker! If only you're more like your sister, then I wouldn't be so worried for your future," complained Charles.

Zayden waved his hand in response, showing that he had had enough of his grandfather's lecturing. "I get it. You're trying to tell me that you like Scarlett more than me. Whatever... But I mean what I said. Even if Samuel did find the woman's corpse in this place, it has absolutely nothing to do with me!"

After listening to that, Charles was finally convinced that his grandson was innocent.

The elderly man then turned to look at his granddaughter and remarked, "You seem awfully quiet today, Scarlett."

Immediately, Scarlett felt uneasy when Charles shifted his attention to her, for she knew exactly where Natalie was.

After witnessing how Samuel reacted to Natalie's disappearance, Scarlett had gotten more nervous than she initially thought. No matter what, I can't let Samuel figure out that I'm involved!

The birthday party officially ended when men and dogs alike started combing through the place in search of Natalie.

Spearheading the operation was Samuel himself, who initially only wanted to surprise Natalie but never expected that she would disappear from the party.

Even though Samuel knew that Natalie was almost as clever as he was, he worried that she might slip up and get herself into trouble.

Samuel could not help but worry at the thought of finding Natalie injured or worse, but still, he had to press on.

"Sir, we've searched every corner from the north side to the central hall but still nothing," reported Billy to Samuel.

"Keep looking. Send your men to check the surveillance and question the Hamiltons' staff. Nobody just disappears like that."

"Yes, Sir!" Billy hurriedly ordered his men to carry out Samuel's orders.

Scarlett had already changed out of her luxurious evening gown when she walked up to Samuel.

"Is there anything I can do to help, Samuel?" inquired Scarlett, pretending to be concerned.

"No. There's nothing you can do," rejected Samuel directly.

"Please understand that I'm only trying to help, Samuel. She went missing on our family property, so I should be responsible for what happened to her. There has to be something I can

help you with. After all, I'm more familiar with this place than you or your men."

After listening to the last part, Samuel figured that Scarlett had got a point. "Fine. You can come with me. Just don't get in the way."

"You won't regret it," promised Scarlett with a smile.

The only reason she wanted to follow Samuel was that she got worried and needed to confirm Natalie's death with her own eyes.

Samuel's sudden appearance did somewhat catch Scarlett by surprise, but she had already ensured everything to go according to her plan. Soon, the clues will lead them to the cold storage, where they'll finally find Natalie's corpse. It's been more than two hours, so she should be a human popsicle by now.

When Samuel nor Hans still could not find Natalie after a while, Yana burst into tears, no longer able to control her emotions. "Where could Natalie have possibly gone? I just tried calling her again, but it didn't go through this time. Something must've happened to her!"

Hans wanted to comfort Yana, but at the same time, he was worried that he might be giving her false hope.

It would destroy Vana emotionally if something were to happen to Natalie.

On the other hand, Samuel still strongly believed that Natalie would be fine.

“She will be fine! I won’t allow anything to happen to her!” exclaimed Samuel firmly with unquestionable resolve, so Yana decided to hold out hope for just a little longer.

After listening to Samuel, Scarlett could not help but sigh because she knew the man would be disappointed. Not even God himself can save Natalie now.

Suddenly, Billy ran up to Samuel, still gasping for air as he informed the man, “Sir, we found something!”

Chapter 417

“Spill it!” ordered Samuel.

“We were investigating when a housekeeper told us that she saw someone similar to Ms. Nichols heading towards a control room on the west side of the property.”

“Then what are you waiting for? Get over there now!”

Samuel was ready to pounce on any lead he could get his hands on.

Even though he knew that there had to be a reason why Natalie disappeared, he dared not imagine the worst.

With tears still rolling down her cheeks, Yana decided that she was done waiting and followed Samuel.

Hans knew better than to try to stop his wife then, so he too quickly followed the group to the location mentioned.

Everyone in the group was either sad or concerned, except for Scarlett, who had nothing but contempt and disdain for Natalie.

I just don’t understand! What exactly does Samuel see in Natalie that he’s willing to go through so much trouble to find her? Anyhow, it doesn’t matter since I’ve already taken care of that woman. Scarlett then continued to pretend as though she was on their side.”

onpretend as though she was on their side. “Samuel. I’m sure we’ll find her very soon. so don’t worry. Someone as clever as her will undoubtedly be fine.”

Unfortunately for Scarlett, all her words fell on deaf ears as Samuel walked on without even sparing her a glance.

Because of that, Scarlett clenched her fists and was even surer that she had made the right choice to work with Yara. Natalie really is all Samuel can ever think about. It’s no wonder that even a confident woman like Yara would do just about anything to eliminate Natalie. As long as Natalie is still around, none of us will ever have a chance at winning Samuel over.

When the group finally reached their destination, all they could see in that area were control rooms for utilities such as auxiliary power supply, fire control devices, boiler, and cold storage.

“Hans, why would Natalie come here?” inquired Yana with an eyebrow raised.

Hans analyzed the surrounding before explaining to his wife, “If she wasn’t lost, then somebody must’ve deliberately led her here. I don’t think she would’ve ignored your calls if she was lost. Besides, the reception here is just fine.”

Like Hans, Samuel had the same thought, so he immediately ordered, “Get the dogs to search this area.”

“Yes, sir!”

Before long, the place was filled with beams of light from flashlights and the sound of dogs barking.

Almost everyone was on the tip of their toes as the search went for about half an hour before a German Shepherd started barking wildly at a cold storage room.

Samuel quickly figured something was wrong with the cold storage room, so he hurried to it. “What’s inside?”

“This is where we store the perishable ingredients. Men would go in and out of it every day to stock up or take the ingredients for food preparation. It’s locked most of the time,” answered one of the Hamiltons’ housekeepers.

“Get it open now.” Samuel narrowed his piercing eyes to show that he meant business.

“But it’s freezing in there. We even have to put on proper clothing to keep out the cold when inside. I don’t think your fiancée is in there. Even if she really is in there, I’m afraid that she’s-”

Before the housekeeper could finish his sentence, he got punched by Samuel, and his glasses were sent flying

Samuel looked daggers at the housekeeper and threatened, “Don’t make me repeat myself. Open the cold storage now!”

With one hand holding his broken nose, the housekeeper hurriedly fumbled around in his pocket to find the keys for the cold storage.

As anxious as Samuel was, Yana would have been too weak to stand properly had Hans not been there to support her.

Scarlett held her breath as the housekeeper unlocked the door, but it was for a reason different from everyone else’s. To her, a good show was about to start.

Freezing cold air greeted the group the moment the door was opened, and it was as numbing as the arctic wind.