

Happiness 491-501

The Promise of Happiness

Chapter 491 Heaven Or Hell I Will Be There For You

“But... Mmm...”

Natalie raised her lips and wanted to say something, but Samuel quickly kissed her. As a consequence, Natalie could not finish her sentence.

The kiss was for a short moment but it was domineering and intense.

Natalie was stupefied. However, she could not contain the lust and excitement in her eyes.

“Samuel, what are you trying to do?”

“I’ve said it. You belong to me now.” Samuel gently touched her lips. His mysterious stare was puzzling. “If you still talk about someone else, I will kiss you immediately. I’ll make sure that you don’t have a chance to speak.”

Natalie’s lips were soft and tender, and Samuel could not get enough of her. In fact, he took pleasure in the supposed punishment.

Natalie muttered, “What if the children find out...”

The same thing happened and Samuel kissed her again.

His soft lips radiated warmth as he kissed her again and again, dragging her from reality into a hypnotic state. Irresistibly, their tongues were entangled and Natalie found herself engaging in the passionate act.

After the kiss, Natalie was struggling to take a breath. Her lips were red and puffy, and her eyes rolled as she was confused. Then, she stopped speaking.

Is he kissing me in public as a form of punishment?

Samuel’s stare emanated affection and adoration, and he clutched her small hands tightly.

The thought of being together with Natalie was elating for Samuel.

It was hard to imagine...

If he had missed out on her, his whole life would be dark and horrible.

“What do you want to do? I’ll do it with you,” Samuel asked.

“I want to try out the drop tower!” Natalie cheekily raised her brows. “Samuel, do you dare to try?”

“Anything for you, my dear wife.”

“Samuel, since when am I your wife?” Natalie pursed her lips and denied it.

“If you are not going to marry me, who else?” Samuel stopped for a second. “If you don’t want to marry me, then I’ll be a priest forever...”

“It depends on your performance...”

Samuel accompanied Natalie to try out the drop tower.

Natalie initially thought that she would not be afraid, but when they ascended higher and higher, her heart started throbbing rapidly.

“Don’t be afraid.”

Natalie raised her head and looked at Samuel.

“Nothing will go wrong when I’m with you.”

“Samuel, if I die one day, what will happen?” Natalie asked.

It was only the first step to seeking revenge against Yara and Thomas, and snatching back the assets of the Nichols family.

Truth be told, it would be effortless to eliminate Yara and Thomas. However, Natalie had refrained from doing so, and she had been repeatedly trying to test the waters. She needed to know the mastermind behind Thomas!

She was not sure of the dangers ahead in her journey to seek revenge.

Perhaps...

She might even lose her life for it.

“If you die, I will be there with you whether you’re in heaven or hell.” Samuel gripped Natalie’s hand. “However, do you think you can die and escape me that easily? Dream on! I’ve set my mind on going through all the hardships with you!”

Natalie was touched and all choked up.

He’s such a tyrannical person... in a good way!

How could she not love him?

When they reached the top, the machine descended at blazing speed.

The sudden change caused Natalie to feel nervous and nauseous. However, Samuel’s hands gripped her hands tightly, giving her a strong sense of security.

When they got down from the drop tower, they were infatuated and started bantering with each other. Oblivious to them, there was a shadow behind them who was watching quietly.

Yara was walking around the amusement park randomly, only to find herself bumping into the couple.

She’s a nobody!

Comparatively, Yara felt like her importance was undermined.

This is not the end!

“Natalie, I will not let you off the hook so easily.” Yara was filled with jealousy, and she felt excruciating pain. Fuming with anger, she muttered, “What you’re enjoying now belongs to me! As long as I get rid of you, my life will return to how it’s supposed to be!”

Chapter 492 Her Secret

After the experience in the haunted house.

The children took off their 3D glasses, and they were still immersed in the adrenaline rush and thrill of the adventure in the haunted house.

“The black cat is so cute!” Sophia exclaimed, “How I wish I can have a black cat as a pet.”

“That’s right! Why not we suggest this to Mommy and Daddy!”

“If we can really have a cat, we can name it Blacky!”

“Blacky sounds lame. We can call it Meowy!”

Billy and Steven glanced at them sideways.

A black cat is in no way cute...

The same cat almost scared the hell out of them just now when it appeared out of nowhere.

The four kids turned around and realized that it was Steven and Billy behind them, but not Samuel and Natalie.

“Where are Daddy and Mommy?” Franklin raised his brows. “Why are you here?”

Steven chuckled. “Your daddy and mommy are busy. Hence, they asked us to accompany you. It’s been a long time since we played together. Did you miss me?”

“Nope.”

“Not at all.”

“No.”

“Nah.”

While their voice sounded different, the reply to Steven’s question was the same.

Steven was speechless.

Billy looked at Steven in disdain. “Mr. Steven, it’s not that I want to mock you, but you should have some self-awareness. The answer to your question is really obvious. Try to avoid asking the same thing in the future.”

The children started pestering Steven and Billy, asking them all sorts of questions.

“Where is Daddy and Mommy?”

“Uncle Steven, we’re bored of you. Can you take us to Daddy and Mommy?” Franklin urged.

“Uncle Steven, please!”

“I am sure you know where they are!”

Xavian and Clayton too started pestering Steven.

Steven smiled awkwardly as he was unsure of what to do. It is so convenient for Samuel to leave the kids with me while he gets to enjoy a romantic night with Natalie!

He could not fend off the barraging questions.

I had to do it, or else I might risk going through twenty blind dates a day!

“Hey, I’m not sure where your daddy has taken your mommy.”

Steven had no choice but to tell them.

“Tonight, I can do anything for you, except to look for your daddy and mommy.”

“Uncle Steven, don’t regret it!”

“I am a man of my word!”

“Then, we want to replay the haunted house ten times!”

Steven was dumbfounded.

It was too late to go back on his word. Hence, Billy and Steven had to endure the torment of going through the same thing over and over again.

Meanwhile, Samuel and Natalie got to enjoy themselves in the amusement park. Finally, they went on the Ferris wheel.

There were only the two of them inside.

As the Ferris wheel got higher and higher, Natalie looked out the window and admired the beautiful night view.

“Samuel, look! It’s so beautiful...”

Natalie merely wanted Samuel to join her in admiring the night view, but when she turned around, she saw Samuel staring at her affectionately.

“That’s right. It’s so pretty.” Samuel stared at her before swallowing his saliva.

Suddenly...

Natalie suddenly recalled the time when Christopher indicated that Samuel could not recognize her when she was wearing the hyper-realistic mask. But in actual fact, Samuel should have noticed already by then...

But he chose to keep quiet all this while. Is he waiting for me to confess?

“Samuel...”

“Yes...”

Perhaps because of the ambiance or the fact that he trusted her more, Natalie finally mustered the courage to ask, “Actually, you already knew that I’m wearing a hyper-realistic mask, right?”

Chapter 493 I Want To Do As I Please

Natalie lifted her hand and started peeling off the hyper-realistic mask...

Seconds later, her true, naked face was exposed to Samuel. Her glistening gaze was mesmerizing, and the smile on her face added a small tinge of joviality to her already gorgeous face.

Samuel did not have much reaction. As usual, the way he looked at her was filled with love and affection.

Indeed, Samuel knew about it earlier on.

“I see...” Natalie muttered, “You knew but why did you choose to kiss such a hideous person portrayed by the mask?”

The hyper-realistic mask that Natalie put on was hideous, and that even was an understatement.

Just the sheer amount of freckles on the face was sufficient to make any man lose interest.

She could not understand the determination and adurance exhibited by Samuel previously.

Samuel was supposed to be a shallow man who only looked for a pretty face in a woman. Hence, he must first be satisfied with a woman’s looks before he fell in love with her.

Natalie widened her eyes and stared at Samuel, bewildered.

Samuel however grabbed her hand and hugged her.

Due to the sudden shift in weight, the cabin of the Ferris wheel started shaking profusely.

Natalie stiffened and sat on Samuel’s thighs, reluctant to move even an inch. However, Samuel abruptly tightened his embrace and held her waist even more forcefully.

The two of them were so close that their breathing almost synced.

“A person’s beauty is not limited to her physical appearance. I’ve always liked you because of your personality, not your appearance. If I’m a man who fancies pretty girls, I would have married Yara five years ago.” Samuel brushed his fingers across Natalie’s nose.

“I don’t like any other woman but you, Natalie...”

He bellowed every single word with passion.

“That means I’m clueless all this while?” Natalie bit her lip and tears started to well up in her eyes.

“I thought I did a good job disguising myself. That time when I was ambushed in the ocean, I lost my hyper-realistic mask, and I avoided you for a few days. That caused you to look for me frantically...”

She continued, “Billy and the others told me that you lost your appetite and sleep during that period of time because of me. If you told me earlier, I would have shown myself...”

Natalie didn’t want to burst into tears on the Ferris wheel, but the thought of Samuel being such a loving and thoughtful man got her emotional.

Samuel must be the man who loves me the most in this world!

Samuel lifted her chin and kissed her eyes, then wiped away her tears.

“It’s not too late now. If I had spoken earlier, you’ll be wavier of me,” Samuel answered.

“Now, the timing is right. You decided to be mine...”

Natalie was stunned.

Samuel was way scarier than she thought.

It was fortunate that he loved her and cared for her immensely. If Samuel were her enemy, then the situation would be drastically different. It would be hell for me...

Natalie wrapped her arms around his neck and asked, “Can you differentiate me and Yara?”

“Yes, I can.”

“Are you sure?” Natalie was doubtful. “We are identical twins and we have the same facial features. Are you sure?”

Samuel gently bit her lips, and his gaze turned even more passionate.

“It hurts...”

Samuel gulped in return.

“Why did you bite me?”

“Yara tried to get close to me numerous times, but I had no interest in her.”

Samuel brushed his nose against hers and said in a low voice,

“But you don’t know...”

“What do I not know?”

“You are so attractive that I wanted to do things to you as I please since before...”

The Ferris wheel got higher and higher.

The fireworks in the amusement parks lit up and decorated the night sky.

In the cabin, no one could bother them.

Samuel seized the opportunity and did as he pleased.

The kiss was too hot...

Natalie could not contain herself. Just as she wanted to break apart, Samuel caught hold of her head and stopped her from doing so.

Soon, her senses quickly faded away...

Under the night sky, it was only the two of them kissing passionately.

The next day.

Natalie stood before the mirror to comb her hair.

Samuel strode over and entered the washroom. He hugged her from behind and put his chin on her shoulder.

Samuel's breath was wet and cold, and it gave Natalie a ticklish sensation.

"Samuel, didn't you have enough last night?"

"Not enough..."

Samuel jokingly smiled and said in a deep and magnetic voice, "You should know that I'm not satisfied easily..."

Natalie supported herself by holding the sink, and she put down her comb. She then took out the hyper-realistic mask and showed it to Samuel.

"I will continue to wear this mask. Let's see if you are used to it..."

"It's good that you put it on."

"What?" Natalie frowned.

"It's better if you don't show your beauty to the world. I don't like other men staring at you." Samuel beamed as he domineeringly asserted his right. "Actually, there's no use staring anyway. You are already my woman."

"You are really..."

Natalie was unsure what to comment about Samuel.

He might be cold and distant to others but that was not the case when he was with her. In fact, he was extremely clingy!

Without realizing it, their lips locked and an intense kiss ensued.

Only after some time did they finally wash up and headed to work.

At Dream Corporation.

Yandel immediately noticed the red patch on Natalie's neck.

"Errrhmmm...." Yandel coughed out loud. The sanctity of his goddess was tainted by someone else!

"What's wrong?" Natalie rolled her eyes at Yandel.

Yandel did not know how to tell her, so he quickly unlocked his phone, turned on the camera in selfie mode, and passed it to Natalie.

"Boss, see for yourself..."

Natalie took over the phone and saw the hickey left by Samuel.

Did I greet Gavin and the housekeepers like this?

Oh no, this is really embarrassing...

Samuel's possessiveness is overbearing! He's trying to mark his territory all over me! I've tried my best to hide them, but I still missed one spot...

"Give me a second."

"Okay."

Natalie went to the washroom before returning to the office.

Yandel wanted to enquire more about their relationship. However, he could not muster the courage to ask her. Therefore, he suppressed his overwhelming curiosity and talked to Natalie about work instead.

"Boss, this is the invitation to the medical conference which will be held three days later," Yandel said, "Dexmed Pharmaceutical and our company would be the two major stakeholders joining the conference. Ross' speech this time will revolve around Dream's progress in developing medicine to treat cancer."

I am not sure what kind of announcement will be made by Dexmed Pharmaceutical. However, I heard that the speaker would be Thomas' daughter. Melissa is not that smart, and Thomas will never let her speak in public. Thus, the only possible candidate is Yara."

"Since when Yara know about medicine?" Natalie frowned.

"Not sure, I've never heard about this too." Yandel stiffened. "But if Thomas can get Yara to speak on behalf of Dexmed Pharmaceutical, she must have the knowledge in this area, I guess?"

Natalie chuckled.

"Yandel, you are overestimating her. Yara knows nothing about medicine."

“Are you sure?” Yandel was taken aback. “This medical conference is international level, which means many experts and specialists will be attending. Those who get to speak on stage will have a great influence across the world. Even a prominent candidate like Ross would do extensive research before presenting on stage just to avoid causing humiliation to Dream.”

Natalie picked up her glass of coffee and took a sip.

“The script can be written by the professionals. What matters is for her to look pretty on stage, and to deliver the speech fluently.”

“How can they do this?”

“Well, ethically they should not be allowed to do that.” Natalie’s eyes flashed with sarcasm. “But this has always been Yara’s style. She is a person that is not willing to put in the hard work and likes to ride on the efforts of others. I did not expect her to become worse...”

When Natalie first returned to Dellmoor, Yara treated her with great hospitality.

At that time, Yara always came out with tons of excuses to avoid attending competitions and exams. Therefore, Natalie was the one who attended those competitions and exams on her behalf.

Everyone knew Yara from the Nichols family, but not Natalie.

Even when Natalie “died” in the fire then, no one knew about it.

“Both of you are twin sisters, but why is there such a big difference?” Yandel sighed. “If I did not see it for myself, it’s really hard to believe...”

“There’s nothing to say about her,” Natalie said coldly, “Let’s talk about the conference. I will be attending it three days later. Well, I’m really interested to see how Yara performs on stage.”

“Boss, you...”

“I’ve been lying low long enough.” Natalie pursed her lips. “I’m done hiding.”

On the other hand.

Yara was reading the script, and she was baffled by its contents. They were filled with technical terms that were hard to pronounce or understand!

“How am I going to memorize this?” Yara slammed the thick stack of documents.

“What’s wrong? If there’s anything wrong, we’ll amend it immediately...”

“It’s riddled with technical terms and you expect me to memorize everything in three days? Are you trying to humiliate me in the public?”

Yara crossed her arm and reprimanded the research professors.

“Change the technical terms by tomorrow. Get out of Dexmed Pharmaceutical if you fail to complete the task!”

The two research professors were hired when Arnold was still alive, and they have worked for the company for twenty over years. Moreover, they were famous and well known in the medical field.

When they were preparing the script for Yara, the complexity was already toned down substantially. If any further amendments were made, then Yara would be a laughing stock on stage.

“I can’t alter the script any further!”

“We don’t need a day. We will resign from Dexmed Pharmaceutical now and move to Dream!”

Even if it meant losing their jobs, the two research professors were not willing to tarnish their reputation in the field.

“How dare you refuse my request!” Yara pointed toward the door and raised her voice. “Get out of here now!”

With that, the two research professors left in utter disappointment.

Thomas bumped into them in the corridor and asked, “Professor Miller, Professor Anderson, is something wrong?”

“Mr. Nichols! What happened to the Dexmed Pharmaceutical?” Professor Miller was devastated. “I’m fine with drafting a script, but she is even refusing to memorize? I quit!”

“Me too!” Professor Anderson followed suit. “This job is not for me. I really miss the time when Old Mr. Bayer and Ms. Bayer were still around!”

Then, the two research professors left the Nichols residence.

With a dark expression, Thomas walked into the room and stared at Yara who was tearing the script apart.

Chapter 496 Willing To Do Anything For It

Thomas walked over to Yara with his brows tightly knitted and asked, “Yara, what did you say to Professor Miller and Professor Anderson just now? Why are they both resigning?”

Thomas had also studied medicine and had some talent and achievements in the field back in the day. Otherwise, he would not have been recognized by Arnold and Jennie.

Even though he wasn’t a natural businessman, with his knowledge, the man could tell that the two professors were talents who were hard to come by in the medical field. It would be difficult to find someone else with the same caliber to replace them if they left.

“They are just two old fools who abuse their seniority. They don’t even know how to amend a draft!” Yara mocked nonchalantly. “Well, at least their willingness to resign shows that they have some self-awareness.”

“Why do they have to amend the draft? I have reviewed it. The paper fits the theme of the conference perfectly.”

“But it’s filled with complicated jargon. How am I supposed to memorize them?”

Yara was in a terrible mood.

All she could think of was the scene she saw last night of Samuel and Natalie having fun together at the playground.

She was so affected by those images that were swirling in her mind that she was almost finding it difficult to breathe, let alone memorize a paper.

Thomas was extremely infuriated by his daughter’s bad attitude.

He slammed his fist angrily on the desk and chided, “That’s nonsense! I told you about the importance of this conference a month ago. What did you promise me back then? You said that you’ll put in your best efforts for Dexmed Pharmaceutical. I’ve submitted your details to the event organizer because of your words. Now that the experts have prepared a draft for you, you are complaining that there is too much jargon and you have trouble memorizing it? Just what’s wrong with you?”

“I don’t feel like memorizing it anymore,” Yara replied expressionlessly. “Dad, just get someone else to do it!”

When Thomas heard that, he felt like he was about to burst into rage.

The name list of the speakers had already been submitted to the organizers, and there were just three days left to the conference day. The last-minute change in Yara’s mind would definitely disrupt Thomas’ plan and make things difficult for him.

Boiling with anger, Thomas picked up an ashtray and hurled it toward Yara.

Even though Yara tried to dodge, her forehead was still hit by the ashtray and a huge bruise appeared on it.

Reeling from the pain, Yara shot a death glare at her father.

“You are really getting out of hand. Now that you have the support of the Bowers family, are you starting to disrespect me?” Thomas was livid with anger. “No matter how capable you are, I’m still the one who gave birth to you after all! Besides, the only one who has your back in the Bowers family is Old Mr. Bowers, who has already retired. From what I know, Samuel isn’t interested in you at all!”

“How can you say that?”

“Am I wrong?” Thomas scoffed and continued, “You shouldn’t be so arrogant and think that you’re invincible just because you’re used to getting things your way! If you are of no help to the Nichols family, I’ll find a man and marry you off. Women become less valuable as they age. I might as well try to use you to the family’s benefit while I still can!”

Thomas could not be bothered to hide his ambitions from Yara.

Even though she still had a chance to marry into the Bowers family, Thomas had already thought of a plan to make use of her to the family’s benefit.

No way!

If Thomas forced her to marry someone who was considered a good match in terms of their family's social status, she doubted that no one from the Bowers family, not even Kenneth, would interfere.

Ignoring the bruise on her forehead, Yara walked toward Thomas. Holding her father's arm, she said, "Dad, I was wrong. I shouldn't have disobeyed you. I will focus on preparations for the conference and will not let you down."

"I'm glad you realized that." Thomas pointed a finger at Yara's nose and warned, "You're the most promising one among my three daughters, and I have high hopes for you. That's why I haven't forced you into marriage until now. I really hope you won't disappoint me!"

Yara nodded. She could feel that her thirst for power was growing.

Even a man's love... is illusory.

Power was the only real asset she was striving to obtain, and the woman would do anything for power.

Chapter 497 Fruitful Efforts

Three days passed in a blink of an eye, and the day of the medical conference had arrived.

Natalie had weaved her shoulder-length black hair into an elegant braid and was wearing a pleated chiffon blouse with black palazzo trousers. She did not accessorize her outfit much, and she looked professional and competent.

Even though she was still wearing the mask, the woman exuded a powerful aura that made her stand out among the other women who had specially dressed up for the event and had heavy makeup on.

Natalie arrived at the conference venue together with Ross.

As the pair walked in slowly alongside each other, Ross turned to look at Natalie and said, "Ms. Nichols, you should be the one presenting later instead of me as you were the one who led the research and development of the cancer drug. We are into the third phase of testing the drug right now, doing clinical trials. If it's approved, countless cancer patients would benefit from it."

"Ross, I know very well how much effort you've put into the drug," Natalie replied placidly. "Besides, like what you mentioned, what's important is that our drug has the potential to bring hope to cancer patients. As such, who is the one doing the presentation doesn't really matter."

Looking at the confident expression on the woman's face, Ross could not help but feel his spirits rising.

He was once cheated on and betrayed by women, and was down in the dumps for a long time because of that.

However, ever since he met Natalie, his life had taken a complete turn. Not only had he successfully gotten over his past humiliations, but he was also able to continue working in the medical field that he was passionate about. Besides, he was even given the opportunity to attend the prestigious conference and speak on behalf of Dream.

It felt as if he was in a beautiful dream, but he knew that he was having those experiences in real life.

If the woman had not found him, he would never have been given such an opportunity.

Ross swore silently to himself while walking next to Natalie.

He had decided that he would work for the woman for the rest of his life and serve her to the best of his ability. He would do his best to complete the tasks she needed him to do.

Meanwhile, Natalie, who was completely unaware of the flood of emotions that was going on in Ross, was busy surveying their surroundings, wondering if Malcolm would also show up at the conference.

Somewhere close by, Samuel was standing behind the curtains with his arms crossed. Putting a finger to his lower lip, he gazed intently at Natalie, who was no doubt the most charismatic person among the crowd.

As Centurion Corporation did not have any dealings in the medical industry, Samuel had no obligations to attend the conference. However, on second thought, he decided to take part in it as he knew that Natalie would be there. He was worried that the woman would choose to wear a revealing outfit and wanted to oversee the event personally.

As such, he was glad to see that Natalie was dressed rather conservatively. Her back and legs were all fully covered up. Even her neck was well-covered and only a small part of it was showing.

It seemed to the man that the hickeys that he gave her the night before had achieved their desired effect.

Even if Natalie had worn a more revealing outfit, it would just be as good as telling everyone that she was already taken.

Although Samuel was usually a calm man with good self-discipline, he had been finding great satisfaction in staking his claim on Natalie ever since he fell in love with her.

Although it was extremely childish, it had never failed to give him joy.

Samuel could not help but smile as he continued looking at Natalie.

“Rascal, why are you here instead of sitting comfortably in the VIP lounge?” An elderly man who was dressed in black stopped next to Samuel and teased, “Did you just spot a pretty woman?”

“Yup.” Samuel admitted and nodded unhesitatingly.

“They are just a bunch of women with thick make-up on. You should just treat them as eye candies and not take them seriously.” Malcolm frowned and waved his hand dismissively before continuing, “Rascal, you’re in luck today. One of my other apprentices whom you have not met before is also here today. She’s both beautiful and capable and is a good match for you. I’m not being shameless, but if I were forty years younger, I would definitely be pursuing her!”

Samuel was totally not interested in the woman whom his master was trying to ship him with.

“I guess you do have some self-awareness,” Samuel cast a glance at the old man and continued, “To know that you’re very shameless indeed.”

Chapter 499 A Legend In The Medical Field

Yara strutted into the conference venue alongside Thomas without even looking back.

Given how famous Malcolm was, he was outraged at being held down by the shoulder like a criminal.

“Let go of me! That girl is young enough to be my granddaughter. There’s no way I would do something so despicable. I’m being wrongly accused. I didn’t do anything to her at all!”

Just when Malcolm was about to be brought to the police station, a mixed-race middle-aged man hurried over when he recognized Malcolm.

“What are you doing to Mr. Trevor? Let go of him!”

The middle-man man was the conference’s executive director, Zachary Kent. His unique features allowed the security guards to quickly recognize him. As a result, they obeyed his instructions and released Malcolm.

Being the elderly man that he was, Malcolm was stung by the soreness of his arms. Therefore, he rubbed them repeatedly while trying to catch his breath.

Subsequently, Zachary bowed in apology. “Mr. Trevor, pardon my inhospitality. I take responsibility for what happened. After this, I’ll punish the entire batch of security guards to your satisfaction.

Malcolm was a legend in both the medical and business world and rarely appeared in public.

After the age of sixty, he turned his back on the world and lived the life of a recluse somewhere deep in the forest.

Given that Zachary had personally invited Malcolm to the conference, he was cognizant of how rare it was for Malcolm to show up.

Shaking his arms to loosen them, Malcolm didn’t say a word. Naturally, Zachary grew anxious.

After giving his arm one final stretch, Malcolm suggested in an earnest tone, “Zachary, the security guards must be punished severely. All right then, get them to write the word ‘security’ ten thousand times!”

Zachary was surprised by Malcolm’s suggestion, as his initial idea of punishment was to transfer the guards who didn’t know better to far-flung regions.

“Mr. Trevor, what-”

“Zachary, is ten thousand words too much?” Malcolm answered his own question, “In that case, make it nine thousand. It would be pointless if they write any lesser than that.”

In truth, Malcolm didn’t care whether the security guards were punished. He was only concerned about the girl that resembled his apprentice.

“Zachary, I have a question.”

“Mr. Trevor, go on,” Zachary asked as he lowered himself respectfully.

“Have you heard of a lady named Yara participating in tonight’s conference?”

“Yes.” Zachary elaborated at once, “She’s Yara Nichols of the Nichols family and represents Dexmed Pharmaceutical.”

Malcolm didn’t respond when he realized that he had mistaken her for his apprentice.

“Mr. Trevor, are you asking because you’re interested in her?”

“Interested in her?” Narrowing his gaze, Malcolm patted Zachary on the shoulder. “Despite my age and deteriorating eyesight, I haven’t lost my taste at all.”

I admit it was my fault to have mistaken her for someone else, but she was extremely rude for relentlessly accusing me of molesting her. Even though Yara looks exactly the same as my favorite apprentice, both of their characters are on opposite ends.

Just when Malcolm felt disappointed that she didn’t turn out to be his apprentice, a familiar voice rang out from behind him.

“Old Man.”

Feeling a burn in his nose, Malcolm turned around and was dumbstruck by what he saw.

In front of him stood an ordinary-looking girl with a voice that resembled his apprentice. However, her facial features looked different.

“Miss, have you gotten the wrong person?” Malcolm looked confused. “You must have made a mistake when looking at me from the back.”

“Old Man, what nonsense are you talking about?” Natalie teased. “I can recognize you anywhere by your silhouette, side profile, X-ray, and CT scan.”

Chapter 498 Not His Apprentice

Malcolm felt like he was about to explode from frustration when he heard that.

He had thought that apprentices were supposed to behave respectfully toward their teachers and wondered why all three of his apprentices were such feisty characters.

His most senior apprentice had just called him shameless while his second apprentice complained that he was naggy. Even his last apprentice often disregarded him.

“You rascal! It really doesn’t pay to be kind these days!” Malcolm ranted. “Just make sure you don’t get too mesmerized by that junior of yours later. For all you know, you might end up pleading with me to put in a good word for you.”

“If she’s really that outstanding, you can introduce her to my other junior instead.”

“Well, he is indeed quite interested in her.” Malcolm ran his fingers through his beard before saying, “Isn’t it obvious that I favor you?”

“Well, there’s no need for you to do that.”

“How can you be so ungrateful!”

Malcolm had originally intended to play matchmaker for his two apprentices, but he did not expect to be snubbed by Samuel.

Fine!

I’ll just leave him on his own then!

Samuel could not be bothered with the old man and headed to the VIP lounge upstairs to rest.

In fact, what was to be discussed at the conference did not matter to the man at all. His sole objective that night was to keep Natalie company, even if he could only do that from a distance.

Malcolm was not in a hurry to head to the VIP area. Instead, he started looking for his beloved apprentice among the crowd.

However, he did not manage to find her after searching around for a while.

Although the old man had a sharp tongue, he was actually a big softie on the inside, and his last apprentice was, in fact, his favorite. As he wanted Natalie to be able to spot him the moment she entered the hotel, he left the conference hall and headed toward the hotel lobby to wait for her instead.

Just then, Yara, who was dressed in a white evening gown, walked in.

Instead of wearing her hair down, she styled it into an elegant bun that matched her dress perfectly. The evening gown was exquisitely designed, with feathers and rhinestones attached to the shoulder straps, giving it a luxurious and vintage feel.

As Thomas was busy chatting with an acquaintance, he was not with Yara.

After Yara displayed her invitation card, she walked toward the hotel lobby.

However, she had barely taken a few steps before she felt someone giving her a pat on her back.

“What is it?”

Taken aback, the woman turned around in annoyance, and at once, she saw a nicely dressed elderly man with a head of white hair staring at her smilingly.

He even reached out and tried to grab her, saying, “Jeez! You’re finally here! Quick, come with me. I’m taking you somewhere to meet your senior before the conference starts!” After pausing for a moment, Malcolm grumbled, “You’re so heartless. I can’t believe you didn’t contact me at all after returning to Dellmoor. I miss you so much, yet you didn’t even bother to check in with me! If not for this conference, I don’t even know when I will get to see you next time!”

However, it was Yara’s first time meeting the strange old man.

Noticing that the man’s hand was touching her arm and hearing those disturbing words from him, Yara flared up and yelled, “You old pervert! What are you trying to do?”

“Old... pervert?” Malcolm was shocked to hear that. He could not believe that his beloved apprentice had just called him a pervert!

“Get lost!”

Yara’s expression was filled with disgust and contempt as she guarded her chest with her arms crossed.

“Why are you...”

“Who the hell are you? Stay away from me!” The woman frowned in discomfort as she warned, “If you dare to touch me again, I’ll sue you and make sure you go to jail!”

After noticing the commotion, Thomas rushed over to his daughter and tried to calm her down.

“Yara, what’s going on?”

Yara pointed at Malcolm and replied, “Dad, I’m being harassed by this old pervert!”

“Hey, what did you do to my daughter?” Thomas swept his gaze toward the security guards at the hotel lobby and lashed out sternly, “This old man here is harassing women randomly. Why are you guys just standing there watching the show and not arresting him?”

Yara?

Malcolm had noticed that that was not his apprentice’s name!

Besides, the way in which the woman was fussing around was not how his smart and cheeky apprentice would act.

It was then that he realized that he had gotten the wrong person!

Before Malcolm could digest the information, he could already feel the security guard’s strong hands pressing down on his arms.

Chapter 500 Being A Third Party Is Despicable

When Malcolm heard the familiar banter, he was briefly stunned. By the time he regained his senses, he exclaimed in delight, “Oh my, it has been so difficult to find you!”

When his gaze fell upon her face, he furrowed his brows intensely. “What happened to you? Usually, people undergo plastic surgery to look prettier. How did you end up looking worse?”

Even though they were standing some distance away from Zachary, they noticed him looking over their shoulder.

Finding him annoying, Natalie suggested, “Old Man, let’s talk someplace else.”

With his mood lifted by the sight of Natalie, he led her and Ross to his private room.

Inside, Malcolm put his hands behind his back and scrutinized Ross.

“Natalie, is this man your significant other?”

Not daring to even think about it, Ross denied nervously, "Mr. Trevor, I'm just Ms. Nichols' subordinate. My name is Ross Trevor."

"You might not have such thoughts now, but what about in the future?" Malcolm took a step closer to Ross as if he was interrogating a criminal. "Don't think that just because your surname is Trevor and that you might have common ancestors with me from five hundred years ago, you can make a pass on my apprentice."

Ross was so terrified that his face turned pale.

Natalie stepped forward to defend him. "Old Man, he really is a valuable subordinate of mine. So can you stop scaring him? If he leaves, where am I going to find such a capable assistant to help me?"

"Are both of you really not involved with each other?"

"No, really."

After Natalie's repeated reassurance, Malcolm's concerns were finally allayed. Luckily, it was just a false alarm. Or else, it would be despicable for Samuel to end up being a third party.

After that, Natalie explained to her master about the hyper-realistic mask she was using. Shocked, Malcolm asked with a sigh, "Natalie, is Yara the sister that you told me about who tried to burn you to death with gasoline?"

Natalie nodded candidly.

"That's her."

Stroking his beard, Malcolm asked in a solemn tone, "Do you want me to seek justice for you?"

"No." Natalie shook her head with a melancholic smile. "I'm aware that you're using this conference as an excuse to come to Dellmoor to look for me. However, you have already promised Mrs. Trevor to live a leisure retirement with her. Given that I have had enough of making you worry, I don't want you to break your promise to her."

The moment she brought up Donna Drake, Malcolm's enthusiasm began to wane.

"Out of my three apprentices, you're the one that knows me best. No wonder people say that it's better to have daughters."

"That's not how it is!"

Malcolm shot Ross a glare, causing him to curl up by a corner of the wall.

He then pulled Natalie aside and started persuading her, "Natalie, you haven't met my most senior apprentice, have you? Other than coming to visit you, I'm planning to visit him too. He is someone exceptional and comes from an illustrious family. On top of that, he's also smart, handsome...."

Natalie couldn't help but knit her eyebrows. "Old Man, get to the point."

"Once the conference ends, why don't I introduce you to him? Perhaps, both of you can go on a date."

“I’m not interested,” Natalie rejected him without a second thought. “I already have someone. Therefore, there’s no need for you to worry.”

At that moment, Malcolm felt as if the biggest hope he was harboring when he came out of seclusion was dashed.

His senior apprentice was already interested in someone else, while it was the same with Natalie.

Consequently, his plan was dead on arrival.

When Malcolm invited Natalie to watch the conference from his private room on the second floor, Natalie told him that she preferred to be seated on the first floor where she could listen to Ross speak at a closer distance.

Thus, Malcolm didn’t insist.

With that, Natalie left the private room together with Ross.

Still in shock, Ross remarked with a sigh, “Ms. Nichols, you’re actually Mr. Trevor’s apprentice? Is there anything in this world that you can’t do?”

Chapter 501 An Obedient Puppet

When something suddenly occurred to Natalie, she broke into an ambiguous smile.

“Ross, as long as one pours one’s heart to it, anything can be accomplished. Instead, it’s the human heart that’s the hardest to read and predict.”

Despite being briefly stunned, Ross nodded in agreement before they returned to the conference venue together.

Most of the participants of the medical conference were middle-aged men dressed in suits.

Therefore, when Yara appeared in her white gown, she looked as if she was a white swan gracefully sauntering into the venue, capturing everyone’s attention.

“Mr. Nichols, you’re such a lucky man. I heard that your daughter will be speaking on behalf of Dexmed Pharmaceutical. Not only does she have an impressive career but is also a stunning beauty!”

“Mr. Nichols, you have to share with us your secret in raising such an exceptional daughter.”

“The conference hasn’t even started, and yet, all of us are already excited for her speech.”

Even though Yara reacted to the compliments modestly, she was secretly elated upon hearing them.

As she enjoyed being in the limelight, their praises caused her recently depressed mood to improve significantly.

When Natalie saw the smug look on Yara’s face, she couldn’t help but sneer under her breath.

Meanwhile, Ross’ speech was in the first half.

When he shared his expertise on behalf of Dream Pharmaceutical, the audience gave him their devoted attention.

Combining his professional knowledge with Dream Pharmaceutical's development philosophy, he talked about the progress Dream made in terms of cancer research.

His speech was both professional and engaging. At the end of it, he revealed to the audience that Dream Pharmaceutical had a cancer drug in the third phase of its clinical trials. Once it was completed, they would be able to further improve the recovery prospects of cancer patients.

The moment he finished, the room broke into thunderous applause.

Even though Dream Pharmaceutical was still considered a young company, its philosophy and goals made a deep impression on the audience.

Broadening her lips into a smile, Natalie clapped for Ross with pride.

No matter how strong she was, there was a limit to what she could do alone.

Under Ross' supervision, they had shortened the launch of the drug by three to five years. Consequently, they would be able to help more cancer patients with the time they had shortened.

Granddad's biggest dream was to develop drugs that can save lives. Even though the company is now called Dream instead of Dexmed, I am still responsible for continuing his legacy.

Inside a private room in the western wing, Samuel smiled as he watched her clap to the extent that both her hands were turning red.

From the perspective of the public, these were Ross' achievements, as they were unaware of Natalie's existence.

Nonetheless, it didn't matter to Samuel because he knew the truth.

Inside the private room on the eastern wing, Malcolm crossed his legs and hummed a tune. He was naturally proud of his apprentice's achievement.

However, inside another private room in the southern wing...

A man in a light-colored suit glanced at the triumphant Ross before turning his attention to Natalie, who had blended into the crowd. Subsequently, his gaze began to darken.

"Dream Pharmaceutical... interesting."

One of his subordinates couldn't help interrupting, "King, Dream Pharmaceutical is nothing but a newcomer. Therefore, it pales in comparison to Dexmed Pharmaceutical which has a history of more than a hundred years."

"Upon Arnold's death, the soul of Dexmed Pharmaceutical died with him. The current person in charge of Dexmed is nothing but an obedient puppet.

"King..."

“Have you forgotten about how Arnold died?” King locked his gaze at the slender figure and laughed.
“Twenty-three years ago, we had Dexmed Pharmaceutical and Arnold Bayer. And now, we have Dream Pharmaceutical and that girl. Sometimes, I can’t help but feel surprised at how history is able to repeat itself.”