

Happiness 512-523

The Promise of Happiness

Chapter 512 Jealousy

The mysterious senior apprentice was late.

All Natalie could do was stay with her master and drink tea with him.

After a long while, she got up and left for the restroom.

At the end of the corridor, the men's and women's restrooms were opposite each other.

In the men's restroom, Samuel was washing off the wine stains at the sink, his eyes as cold as ice.

A woman with a great figure, who was wearing a gown with a slit at the side, handed him a towel.

Though her shapely figure looked really sexy, she had an innocent look on her face.

She looked innocent yet seductive at the same time. Any man would have fallen for her just by looking at her.

"Sir, your shirt is wet. Your hands are wet too. Why don't you let me help?" Cherine said.

Samuel's brows drew tightly together as he said icily, "Get lost."

Those words hurt her. She was the apple of everyone's eyes in her school. It was also due to her beautiful looks that she was able to keep her job at the restaurant.

She had full confidence in her looks.

What's more, she had fallen in love with him at first sight. The woman had never experienced such an obsession with someone in her life.

She refused to believe that the man wouldn't feel anything for her if she continued to please him.

"I've already apologized, sir. I just want to help you clean up. I will do a good job, and I'll make sure it'll satisfy you."

Cherine smiled and tried to press her soft body against his arm.

Right then, an arm appeared before her chest, blocking her from proceeding forward anymore.

Having been interrupted by Natalie, the woman glared at her and asked, "What are you doing?"

"I should be the one asking you that," Natalie said with a cold smile. "Are you really that desperate? He already told you to get lost, but here you are forcing yourself on him."

Anger boiled in Cherine when her intention was exposed.

"That's between him and me. It's none of your business, okay?" She studied the freckles on Natalie's face, and a hint of contempt flashed through her eyes. "Perhaps... Are you going to help him clean up if not me?"

At first, she thought that the latter would be rational and shut up obediently after hearing her words. However, to her surprised, Natalie smiled and said, "That's exactly what I want to do."

Cherine was about to call her shameless. However, after giving it some thought, she decided that an ugly woman like her was just seeking trouble. With that thought in mind, she changed plans.

"All right, then. Here's the towel. Why don't you clean him up, then?" she challenged as she handed Natalie the towel.

The latter grabbed the towel and turned to look at Samuel.

She glared at him and sighed inwardly. He is nothing but trouble.

It's so troublesome that he's so handsome. I've only been away from him for a few hours, but he managed to find himself another admirer.

Samuel looked down at her. A slight smile hung on his lips at the sight of her being jealous.

Pouting, Natalie started to unbutton his shirt grumpily, revealing his well-toned muscles.

She lifted her hand and began wiping off the excess water on his chest with the towel.

The man could feel her cold fingers, and her hot breaths on his chest as she wiped.

The once cold and arrogant man became gentle in an instant in front of Natalie.

Not only did he not reject her, but he also opened up his shirt more so that she could wipe easily.

What?

Cherine would not have believed it if she hadn't seen it with her own eyes.

I've been pestering him and trying to help him, but he was cold and arrogant. His eyes were even full of disdain for me.

But not only is he cooperating, but he also looks like he's enjoying it when this woman with a face full of freckles is doing it.

Chapter 513 Unworthy Contender

This is outrageous!

Humiliated, Cherine yelled indignantly, "Why would you let a woman like her wipe you down instead of me?"

Samuel took Natalie's tiny hand and pressed it to his chest. He scoffed, "Do you truly believe that you hold a candle to her?"

"W-Where do I fall short?" Cherine's confidence wavered under Samuel's cold gaze.

"From the top of your head to the bottom of your feet," Samuel replied, his eyes glinting with hostility. "Leave! I don't want you tainting the view."

Cherine could not believe the words that were coming out of the man's mouth.

Tears streamed down her cheeks, and she ran away, sobbing.

However, her hasty actions caused her to stumble over her own feet. Cherine wobbled on her stilettos and crashed onto the ground. Despite her mortification, she turned to peek at Samuel, hoping that he would be concerned for her.

Her heart shattered when she realized that Samuel did not even spare her a glance. She pathetically climbed to her feet and left with her tail between her legs.

“Let go!” Natalie struggled to free her hand from Samuel’s strong grip.

“My shirt is still wet. Don’t you want to continue to wipe me dry?” Samuel teased with a devilish smirk.

“No, thanks. My arm is sore,” Natalie muttered, pursing her lips. Her zeal from moments ago was nowhere to be found.

Natalie quickly withdrew her hand when she felt Samuel’s fingers loosen. However, the man’s arm snaked around her slender waist, and he pulled her close.

“Are you still mad?”

“What’s there to be mad about?” Natalie retorted.

“I swear that I didn’t let the woman touch me; not even a graze!” Samuel defended himself. “Don’t worry. I know my boundaries, and I promise that I’m clean-”

“Samuel, what in the world are you saying? Who cares whether you’re clean or not?” Natalie interrupted. Contrary to her harsh words, a warmth spread through her heart.

Samuel knew that Natalie had experienced multiple counts of betrayal in the past, so he was on a mission to shower her with love and give her the security she had been deprived of.

Samuel’s gaze riveted on Natalie’s delicate face. His Adam’s apple bobbed as he swallowed.

Oh no. What should I do?

The desire to kiss Natalie consumed him.

Samuel gently nudged Natalie’s nose as he leaned in closer to capture her lips with his own. However, Natalie’s hand shot up to intercept his advances, and the kiss landed on her palm.

“No!” Natalie exclaimed frantically. “I have an appointment with someone important today. My lips are already swollen from the kiss this afternoon. I wouldn’t be able to explain myself if it swells more!”

“Someone important?” Samuel echoed as he arched an eyebrow.

“Yes.” Natalie nodded in affirmation. The friendship between apprentices who share the same master is as strong as a familial bond. My senior is practically my brother.

Samuel’s face clouded over.

“Is the person you’re meeting male or female?” he interrogated.

“A male.”

The words had barely left Natalie's mouth when Samuel's lips descended upon hers.

The kiss seemed to carry a hint of vengeance.

Since she doesn't want her lips to be kissed swollen, I'll do exactly that! Let it be a warning to that man that this woman is taken, and that he should stay away from her.

"Mm..."

The kiss was so intense that Samuel's teeth broke Natalie's skin.

A long while later, Samuel released Natalie with a self-satisfied grin that rivaled that of a Cheshire cat.

"I have to meet someone too." Samuel traced a finger down Natalie's nose and cautioned, "Don't take off the hyper-realistic mask for no reason. Call me when you're done, and I'll come to pick you up."

With that, Samuel promptly left.

Natalie stood rooted to the spot, gasping for air as she reeled back from the kiss.

This man is way too domineering!

Meanwhile, Samuel strode into the private room he had reserved.

Malcolm, who was nodding off from boredom, immediately perked up at the sight of Samuel. "Samuel, here!"

Chapter 514 Playing With Fire

"Master," Samuel greeted, his expression stony as he gave Malcolm a curt nod.

Malcolm waved a hand at him. "Don't look so cold later. Just look at that face of yours! You'll scare off your junior!"

"My face has always looked this way."

Malcolm narrowed his eyes and warned, "I'm not the only one who has a soft spot for your junior. Donna and the rest of the rest adore her as well. If you dare bully her, none of us will go easy on you."

"I'm not interested in my junior in that way." Samuel took a seat and poured himself a cup of tea. "If you're thinking about setting me up with her, I advise you to give up early on," he said impassively.

"Save the talk about giving up till you see her."

"No need for that," Samuel shot back without a second thought. The corners of his lips quirked upward as he continued, "It doesn't matter if she has the beauty to overturn nations. I won't have that sort of intent toward her."

His confident statement was the first thing Natalie heard when she entered the room.

A shiver ran down her back when she caught sight of the man's familiar profile. My senior is Samuel? This is too much of a coincidence. It'll be a waste if I don't use this opportunity to tease him!

Samuel's unexpected appearance sparked Natalie's playful side once she recovered from the initial surprise.

"Master, since my senior has no interest in me, why do you still insist on setting us up?"

Natalie's eyebrows moved expressively as she spoke, and her lips curved into a half-smile as she approached the men. "It's not like this senior is the only guy left on earth! I'm sure my other seniors are brilliant as well, and other masters are bound to have a few outstanding apprentices too."

Malcolm's expression shifted drastically upon hearing her declaration. He shot to his feet and began to console Natalie, "T-This guy has no idea what he's talking about. Don't take it to heart!" He was worried that Samuel's words had hurt Natalie's feelings.

After comforting Natalie, Malcolm turned to jab a finger in Samuel's face as he berated, "That mouth of yours overshadows all the good in you! Your foolishness just ruined all of my hard work!"

Samuel followed Malcolm's gaze to see Natalie standing by the door.

His fingers tightened involuntarily around the teacup when he registered her presence.

Tea sloshed about in the cup as the teacup shook from the sheer force of his grip.

"Which outstanding person did you want Master to introduce you to?" Samuel asked, his menacing tone matching his darkened face.

Natalie could tell that her statement had triggered Samuel's jealousy, but she did not retract her words and instead continued to poke the bear. "My other seniors, of course. Well, anyone but you, really. Didn't you just say that no matter how beautiful I am, you wouldn't be interested in me?"

"Watch what you say," Samuel warned as his eyebrows drew together tightly.

"I was just repeating what you said. What's wrong with that?" Natalie continued to goad, refusing to back down.

"You're playing with fire."

"And what about that?"

Anxiety seized Malcolm as he watched his beloved apprentices leap at each other's throats at their very first meeting.

Malcolm recognized that Samuel had started the argument with his ugly remarks and reprimanded, "Samuel, just look at what you did! So what if you're not interested? Did you really have to go and be so rude? Can't you speak nicely? If you continue to bully your junior I'll chase you out of this place!"

Samuel felt like he was about to explode from anger as he watched Natalie hiding behind Malcolm. She peered at him over Malcolm's shoulder and feigned innocence.

Samuel stood up from his seat, walked toward Natalie, and wrapped an arm around her waist.

His possessiveness was palpable as he trapped Natalie in his embrace.

Left out of the loop, Malcolm thought that Samuel was trying to take advantage of Natalie and spluttered angrily, "You b*stard! What are you trying to do to Natalie?"

A giggle escaped Natalie's lips when she saw Malcolm's frantic state.

Her titter grew into full-blown laughter as her shoulders shook with mirth.

Samuel pulled Natalie closer to himself and said, "Master, if she's the junior that you were talking about, then I take back everything I said. Nat is the love of my life. If she ever asks you to introduce her to other men, please deny her and tell her to stop being deluded."

Malcolm's eyes darted between Samuel and Natalie, who was still in Samuel's arms.

"You're a couple?"

"Yes." Samuel's voice rang with certainty.

Never in a million years did Malcolm think that the two apprentices he wished to set up would find their way to each other without his intervention. It was amazing news.

"This is great!" Malcolm was practically leaping with elation.

Natalie's smile disappeared as she prodded Samuel's cheek. "Samuel, do you have no sense of humor at all? Can't you tell that I was just joking?"

Raising an eyebrow, Samuel countered, "Do you think I'd let my woman make such a joke?"

"Got it. I won't do it again."

Natalie arduously pried Samuel's fingers from her waist. Although they had engaged in activities far more intimate than this, Natalie still felt awkward about being lovey-dovey with people around.

"Master, Senior, I'll serve you some tea," Natalie suggested.

Natalie skilfully prepared the tea and proffered Malcolm and Samuel each a cup.

"This must be fate!" Malcolm marveled as he sipped on his tea. "I thought that the two of you would have no connection whatsoever. Who knew you would be interested in each other!"

"Samuel, you know about medicines?" Natalie murmured.

Samuel swirled the tea in his cup as he smirked, "I never said that I didn't."

Natalie had sought out Malcolm to learn about medicine. If Samuel was also Malcolm's apprentice, then he should be skilled in the field as well. Natalie had concealed her abilities all this while, so it came as no surprise that Samuel had been laying low too.

Had it not been for this fateful encounter, she might have never found out about this side of Samuel.

Natalie gaped at Samuel, her almond-shaped eyes wide with astonishment. She had always known that Samuel was no average Joe, but his true capabilities were far beyond her imagination.

Samuel's eyes met Natalie's as he placed his teacup down.

“But my medical expertise is not as good as yours,” Samuel admitted humbly. “I’ve only dabbled in the medical field for a year before switching to business. After that, I returned to Dellmoor to take over the Bowers family business.”

Malcolm stroked his beard and nodded in agreement.

It was true that Samuel was not as well-versed in the medical field compared to Natalie, but it was simply a matter of experience rather than talent.

Natalie had been exposed to the environment in her early years, thanks to her grandfather and mother. After that, she had learned from Malcolm for two years whereas Samuel had only stayed for one.

However, Samuel easily learned knowledge worth twenty years of experience in the span of a year.

“By the way, why did you take Nat as your apprentice?” Samuel regretted missing the earlier stages of Natalie’s life and yearned to make up for the lost memories. This included learning more about her apprenticeship.

Upon hearing his question, Natalie’s hand shook, and the tea splattered on her hand.

The piping hot liquid scalded Natalie’s hand, turning her skin red.

“Are you all right?” Worry etched Samuel’s face as he held Natalie’s hand gingerly. “Why are you so careless?”

“It’s nothing,” Natalie dismissed his concern.

“Nothing? Look, the back of your hand is all red...” Samuel picked up a bottle of chilled water and poured it over Natalie’s hand.

Chapter 516 Speechless

Natalie’s eyelashes fluttered as she said nonchalantly, “It’s really nothing.”

How is this nothing?

Samuel was irked by Natalie’s response, but when he lifted his head to glower at her, he noticed the helplessness in her eyes.

Natalie was an intelligent woman—some might even describe her as cunning, so it was rare to see her so lost.

Thinning his lips, Samuel refrained from further comment as he continued to tend to her injured hand.

Malcolm watched the scene unfold before him. With a sigh, he took a sip of his tea.

It’s no wonder Natalie would react this way.

The memory of when he first met Natalie resurfaced in his mind. “Gruesome” would be an apt description for her condition then.

Recalling the events was hard for even him, as a passerby. He could not imagine how tormenting it must be for her to revisit such a dark past.

Samuel deftly tended to Natalie's burn wound. His frown deepened when he realized that Malcolm too, had no intention to answer his question.

Why are they so reluctant to talk about Natalie's recruitment?

"Well, since Natalie's hand is fine and we've drunk the tea, let's have some food." Malcolm quickly changed the subject. "Natalie, there's no one but us here, and it's been a while since we met. Why don't you take off the mask? I'm more fond of your natural look."

Natalie readily complied and took off her hyper-realistic mask.

Dinner was served.

Malcolm was in seventh heaven as he ate and drank to his heart's content.

Age was taking a toll on Malcolm, so Donna was strict about his alcohol intake. Now that he was free from her watchful eyes, Malcolm downed drink after drink without care.

Mildly inebriated, Malcolm patted Samuel's hand and said in a guttural voice, "You must take care of Natalie! This woman is amazing! I only have sons and no daughter of my own, so my wife and I treat her as our own daughter. She's precious to us, so don't you dare treat her bad! If she's upset because of you, Donna and I will chase you to the ends of the world to break both your legs!"

With drunkenness came the truest of words. Everything Malcolm had said came from the bottom of his heart.

"Master!" Natalie felt a lump in her throat. Although she enjoyed bantering with Malcolm and going against his wishes, she was grateful for everything Malcolm and Donna had given her.

Samuel patiently listened to Malcolm's nagging and solemnly vowed, "Don't worry. Nat is the love of my life. I'll take good care of her." Even if he had to give up his life for Natalie, he would do it willingly.

Pleased, Malcolm nodded and chuckled. "All right, Samuel. I'll hold you to your words. I'll have my eye on you until my last breath."

After the gathering, Samuel instructed Billy to send Malcolm back to his hotel.

Samuel did not drink any alcohol, so he brought Natalie back to the Bowers residence.

The events of the day came flooding back as Natalie stared at Samuel's exquisite profile.

The public announcement by Dream Corporation was a success, and the anticancer drug trial was underway. Yara had been riled up, and Natalie's senior turned out to be Samuel...

Satisfaction bubbled up within Natalie as she reminisced about the day.

Although the rest of her journey would be no easy feat, Natalie was surrounded by people who loved and cared for her—a vast difference from where she was five years ago.

The air-conditioning in the vehicle was just right, and the effects of alcohol were hitting Natalie. The calming atmosphere created the perfect lullaby as Natalie drifted off.

Moments later, the car pulled up in front of the Bowers residence. Samuel turned to tell Natalie that they had arrived home, only to see Natalie sound asleep.

Her chest rose and fell rhythmically along with her deep breaths. Her lashes quivered lightly from the puffs of air, and her flawless complexion seemed to glow under the silvery moonlight.

Samuel did not wake her up.

Instead, he turned in his seat and propped his head in his hand, his warm gaze settling upon her sleeping face.

Perhaps it was because of love, but Samuel felt like he could spend an eternity just watching this beautiful woman.

Chapter 517 Fulfill Your Wish

Meanwhile, Yara woke up blearily and found herself in an enclosed space. Apart from a small area shone by a light above her, it was pitch black everywhere.

The light shone on her face, forcing her to close her eyes. There was someone before her, but she could not see the person.

Yara recalled two men in black jumped out of the housekeeper's minivan. One of them covered her nose, causing her to faint.

"Who's there?" Yara glanced left and right in panic. "Where am I? What are you planning to do to me? I have a lot of money. Tell me how much you want, and I can give it to you!"

A man's voice came from the darkness. "How arrogant! Is the Nichols family that rich? Even if Dexmed Pharmaceutical is yours, it isn't worth much money, isn't it?"

Yara was stunned by the man's disdainful tone. It seemed that he deemed Dexmed Pharmaceutical as insignificant as an ant.

If he doesn't want money, what does he want?

"Who... Who are you? Why did you abduct me?" Yara asked.

"Initially, I expected you to shine in today's conference..." The man sighed. "In the end, that woman from Dream crushed you under her feet. If one were to compare talents, you still have a long way..."

"That woman? Who are you talking about?" Yara asked anxiously.

"You know who I am talking about," the man replied calmly. Then, he continued, "If you continue like this, she will trample you under her feet forever. You can never hope to turn the situation around."

"I..." Yara wanted to refute what he said. However, she could not help remembering that Samuel had grown cold towards her. Furthermore, Dream had taken control of Dexmed Pharmaceutical.

Therefore, nothing turned out the way she wanted. If the situation continued this way, she would lose everything.

Under the glaring light, Yara could vaguely see a man with a silver mask over his face. She couldn't see anything else.

"Why are you telling me all these? There's no way you're being nice to me! What do you want from me?" Yara asked fearfully.

Although she could only see the man's facial contours, she could still sense his domineering aura.

Furthermore, she felt a sense of fear looking at him.

If he decided to kill her, it would be as easy as lifting a finger to him. He could make her disappear from the face of the world.

"I invited you here to help you fulfill your wish." The man paced around before explaining, "That woman didn't even change her name. She just altered her face and returned to Dellmoor. Yet, you have only begun to suspect her now. Five years ago, you used her familial affection and betrayed her. Now, she obtained Samuel's love again. How can you stand a chance against her on your own?"

His every word struck her to the core.

However, what he said was indeed Yara's present predicament.

Other than Kenneth, her trump card, she had no other cards in her hands.

Initially, she thought that she could have everything. Now, it seemed that she could lose it all at any moment.

Yara bit her lower lip as the fear of losing everything assailed her.

Her rationality told her that this man would never help her with nothing to gain. Furthermore, his help might carry a price too severe for her to pay.

However, she had fallen deeply in love with Samuel during these five years.

Yara could accept losing everything except Samuel.

Therefore, she got up from the floor, wanting to get to the man. Unfortunately, the surrounding was too dark, causing her to lose balance and stumble clumsily onto the floor.

Then, she crawled on the floor to the man's feet and murmured, "Please help me! I can give up anything, but I can't lose Samuel. I can't stand to lose him. Please, I beg of you. I am willing to pay any price you want!"

"Good." The man bent down and grabbed Yara by her hair. He sounded pleased as he said, "Since you begged for my help, I will give you a chance... You better not disappoint me."

Chapter 518 You Must Not Provoke Him

The following morning, Natalie opened her eyes and found herself in Samuel's embrace.

Samuel was still asleep. His facial features seemed exquisite up close, and his lips pursed slightly, forming a thin line.

I thought I had fallen asleep in the car last night. Did Samuel carry me to bed? It must be him. I don't think anyone else would dare to do that.

It felt blissful to wake up in the arms of the man she loved.

Therefore, Natalie could not help but smile and glide her finger along his nose bridge. Then, she slid her finger down onto his lips.

His lips feel soft. Why do they seem so fierce when kissing?

As Natalie was thinking, a gruff voice sounded. "Do you like what you see?"

Natalie did not expect to be caught in the act and was too stunned to speak.

One should never provoke a man in the early morning, especially a man as virile as Samuel. Therefore, Natalie decided to play safe.

"Good morning, I'll go and check the children..." Natalie said.

Before Samuel could do anything, Natalie quickly peeled off the blanket and escaped out of the bedroom.

Samuel watched Natalie running away. He propped his head on his arm and smiled affectionately. He couldn't blame her for escaping.

What can I do? I can't help wanting to claim her for myself all the time. I wish I could hold her to myself and never let go.

Natalie washed up in the bathroom before heading to the dining room for breakfast.

The four children sat at the dining table. They were chatting while enjoying breakfast.

Natalie had just taken a seat at the dining table when the children rushed to put food on her plate.

"Mommy, this is your favorite sunny side up..."

"Mommy, you should try this bacon..."

"Mommy, these cheese slices are nice..."

"Mommy, this strawberry yogurt is tasty..."

Natalie saw her empty plate instantly piled up with food. She smiled happily and said, "Yup! I will finish all the food you have given me."

When Samuel came downstairs, he saw the four children surrounding Natalie.

He couldn't help feeling a little jealous as he saw how close they were to Natalie. However, when he saw their smiling faces, he couldn't resist smiling too.

Suddenly, Samuel remembered what happened at Acapella last night. His heart sank as he recalled Malcolm's silence when Natalie toppled a teacup.

Being taken in as a disciple should be a happy occasion. Why did she panic?

After breakfast, Billy arrived to send Samuel to work.

Once they got into the car, Billy wanted to update Samuel on work, but Samuel interrupted him. "I'm not going to the company. Send me to Imperial Hotel. I want to talk to my master..."

"Mr. Bowers, what about this morning's meeting..." Billy said.

Samuel pursed his lips and replied, "Cancel it."

Seeing that Samuel was determined, Billy had no choice but to obey and send him to Imperial Hotel's entrance.

When Samuel arrived to meet Malcolm, he was telling Donna what had happened recently.

Then, Malcolm poured Samuel a cup of tea and said with a smile, "Mrs. Trevor heard about you and Natalie. She wanted me to tell you that if you dare to bully Natalie, she will come for your head!"

Samuel nodded.

Natalie was a lovable person, so he was not surprised that Donna cared about her. Instead, he would find it strange if she disliked her.

"We had just met yesterday, and now, you are here to see me again..." Malcolm glanced at Samuel and said cautiously, "Does it have something to do with Natalie? What brings you here?"

Samuel took a sip of tea and frowned. "Master, I would like to ask you what happened to Nat in the past. Why does she always seem unsettled whenever I mention an apprenticeship with you?"

Chapter 519 Natalie Used To Have Aphasia Too

Malcolm was stunned briefly, but he was not surprised that Samuel would ask him this question.

"Are you sure you want to know?" Mr. Bowers finished his cup of tea calmly. He looked straight into Samuel's eyes and said solemnly, "She had gone through a lot!"

"Master, I sincerely want to know everything about her..." Samuel replied.

He had guessed that Natalie was hurt before. Thus, it made him even more determined to find out what happened to her in the past five years.

"Fine, I will tell you." Malcolm put his teacup on the saucer and said, "The current Natalie may seem clever and sly like a fox, but she was different when I first met her. It was Mr. Jones who brought her to me."

Malcolm took a deep breath and continued, "He said that Natalie was the granddaughter of his good friend and asked me to save her life no matter what. At the time, there were blood and burns all over her body. She was holding two bloodied babies tightly in her arms."

Samuel had mentally prepared himself, but he could not help but gasp upon hearing Malcolm. No wonder Natalie always says that she is fine whenever she is injured. It turns out that those injuries were nothing to her because she had experienced more horrific ones...

Fury rippled in Samuel's eyes, but he did not know what to say.

"Samuel, I can never forget what I saw then." Malcolm's eyes turned red as he thought of the past. "I can't describe to you the severity of her injuries. Her condition was far worse than the two babies. However, she refused to let me check her. Instead, she begged me to see the babies first. She feared for her children as they were small and weak..."

Malcolm paused before continuing, "Although I wanted to save her urgently, I also needed to respect her wish. Therefore, I quickly checked the two babies. Once I was done and went to examine her, she was already on the verge of death but forced herself to cling on to life. After saving her life, I felt rather proud of myself. I thought that I had incredible medical skills and saved her from death. Now, thinking back... Although I was skilled, it was her willpower that helped her pull through! Such determination is even beyond your reach... Later, she followed me to the mountain to recuperate. Likely due to the severe trauma, she could not say a word for half a year."

"What? She suffered from aphasia?" Samuel frowned and felt pained as if someone had stabbed his heart.

He remembered how Sophia could not speak in the past.

It seemed that they are truly mother and daughter. They both lost their ability to speak from trauma.

"Yes! She stayed with Mrs. Trevor and me quietly." Malcolm stroked his beard and sighed. "Natalie did her best to repay me for saving her and her children's life. Even when she was busy raising her two children, she assisted me in the lab. She even learned to plant medicinal herbs and helped me save many rare herbs from dying. Mrs. Trevor and I liked her, so I offered to take her in as my disciple. She couldn't speak then, so she prostrated herself before Mrs. Trevor and me. I've never witnessed such sincerity in anyone else!"

As Samuel listened to Malcolm, he finally realized why Natalie kept rejecting him.

She seems heartless and appears as if she has everything under her control. In actuality, she is all covered in bad memories and scars. Perhaps I can only find out about this from my master since Natalie always kept everything to herself. She would never tell me even if I asked her.

"How did she regain her ability to speak?" Samuel asked.

"She wanted to teach Xavian and Clayton..." Malcolm paused before continuing, "Natalie did not want to miss out on teaching her children to speak. Therefore, she forced herself to learn to speak every day. She had to relearn everything from scratch."

Chapter 520 He Was Heartbroken

Samuel had a tensed expression when he came out of Imperial Hotel.

Billy did not know what Samuel and Malcolm talked about. Samuel seemed much sterner than usual.

Then, Billy followed behind Samuel and sensed a chilling aura from him. He did not dare to say anything.

On the other hand, Samuel was still thinking about what Malcolm said.

The two years she spent on the mountain was not a happy time for her. Judging from her stubborn personality, I believe she doesn't want you to know. Therefore, you must not let her know that I told you these. Furthermore, you should know that although Natalie appeared lovable, she was more prideful than anyone I know. Therefore, do not interfere with what she wants to do, such as revenge.

Even though Samuel knew it could not replace the hurt Natalie suffered, he could not stop feeling heartbroken for her.

She has experienced so much pain... Natalie must have returned to Dellmoor, intending to repay all the wrongs done against her. If that is what she wants, I will not stop her. Instead, I will help her to the end.

The news that Natalie was the chairman of Dream Corporation spread throughout the business world. Since early morning, many big shots of the medical industry gathered at the reception to make appointments to meet Natalie.

Apart from discussing collaboration with Dream Corporation on the anti-cancer drug, they also wanted to see this young lady who had established Dream Corporation in such a short time.

"Geniuses are different from everyone. Initially, I thought Yandel was impressive for achieving so much at a young age. Now, it turns out that the chairwoman of Dream is even younger than him," someone said.

"I was at the conference yesterday. Therefore, I can see that Dream has the potential of becoming a leader in research and development on drugs in Chanaea," another person added.

"Previously, I thought that Dexmed Pharmaceutical, with its more than a hundred years of reputation, is one of the top companies in the pharmaceutical industry. Now, it seems like nothing compared to Dream!" someone else said.

"Hah! What a hundred years of reputation? Dexmed Pharmaceutical used to belong to the Bayer family. Now, a Nichols has taken over it! I heard that Thomas was a greedy son-in-law and tricked Arnold and his daughter. In the end, he snatched Dexmed Pharmaceutical for himself..." another person complained.

Meanwhile, a woman in light blue sportswear and a sports cap walked past the crowd unnoticed. She went to the VIP elevator and accessed it using her fingerprint. Then, she rode it straight to the top floor of the building.

After that, she entered the chairwoman's office.

Lia, Ross, and Yandel were already there. They were watching recordings of yesterday's conference.

Natalie wore a hyper-realistic mask with numerous freckles on the cheeks.

Seeing that there was no one else in the office, she took off her hat and slumped onto the couch. Then, she threw the hat to the side and said, "I noticed something strange when I arrived. Therefore, I had to

go to the department store next door to buy a set of sportswear. It seems I have to carry a hyper-realistic mask with me at all times.”

“I have spoken out of bounds yesterday.” Ross adjusted his gold-rimmed glasses. He sounded remorseful as he said, “I shouldn’t have revealed it...”

“I don’t blame you.” Natalie waved her hand and softened her tone. “Ross, Yara has a photo of you supporting me and is spreading baseless rumors. Therefore, you should reveal the nature of our relationship to the public. That would be best for both of us. Furthermore, there is nothing wrong with me being the chairwoman. Therefore, you shouldn’t blame yourself.”

Ross nodded and seemed a lot less troubled than before.

Yandel patted Ross’ shoulders and chuckled. “Ross, I should thank you for reducing my workload. You have no idea how much effort I have to put in to hide that she is the chairwoman.”

Lia added, “Although exposing her identity as the chairwoman may bring a lot of attention, it would make Yara warier. Now, she won’t dare to keep causing Natalie trouble.”

At the mention of Yara, Natalie stopped tapping her fingers on the couch’s armrest.

Yara is calculating and can plan every step beautifully. Otherwise, I wouldn’t have fallen for her trap and nearly died. Yara’s failure this time is because she has underestimated me and she does not know what I’m capable of.

“Lia, you are wrong,” Natalie said.

“Huh?” Lia could not figure out what was wrong with her statement.

“From now on...” Natalie said solemnly, “The real storm is coming...”

Chapter 521 It Is Impossible To Come Back From The Dead

When Yara was back at the Nichols residence again, there was dust all over her body. Apart from that, her white dress turned grey, and her dusty damped hair was in messy knots. There was even a flicker of sheer frigidness in her bloodshot eyes. In other words, her dishevelment at the moment was a stark contrast to her usual dignified self.

As Thomas had already left for work, only Yvonne and Melissa were at home at the moment.

Yvonne shot Yara a disdainful glance and mocked, “I heard your speech during the conference yesterday was non-comparable to the one from the Dream Corporation. You were badly defeated by them, weren’t you? Pfft! What a shame! Melissa would have outperformed you if she were the one to attend it yesterday!”

Needless to say, Yvonne was observant and had a clear insight into the current situation.

She used to bottle up her emotions in the face of Yara as she had pinned her hope on her to build a familial bond with the Bowers family. Now that the chance of the latter marrying Samuel was getting slimmer, it was pointless for Yvonne to butter her up.

Yara only stared at Yvonne coldly without uttering any words. The utter frigidness in her eyes sent a shiver down Yvonne's spine.

"W-why are you looking at me like that?" Yvonne stammered.

She had gotten used to Yara, who tended to have her nose in the air at home for the past five years. Nevertheless, she had never seen the latter wear such a horrendous look before. She could not help shuddering at the sight of the ferocity in her eyes.

It was as though the latter's penetrative gaze would turn into a dagger that ripped her apart! My goodness! She's only twenty-four years old! But how could she have such a heinous gaze?

Yvonne tried to put on a brave front despite the surge of fear that started to well up from within her. At the same time, she suddenly remembered her date with the other three ladies from prominent families. She foresaw she would surely be late if she did not manage to step out in time.

The next moment, she pulled her grey fur coat tighter around herself and told Yara incoherently, "I have a date with my friends. I have to go now."

After Yvonne had left, Melissa advanced toward Yara daringly and questioned her with a grimace, "Even if she's not your biological mother, how could you talk to her in such a rude manner?"

"Follow me to my room. I've to tell you something," Yara requested instead of refuting her words.

"Why do I have to go to your room? What is so secretive that you can't be straight to the point here?" Melissa retorted.

"It's about Yandel. Anyway, it's up to you. I won't force you if you're not keen about it," Yara snapped at her and turned to go upstairs right away.

Yandel? Melissa bit her lips hesitantly.

Even though Yandel did not get in touch with her since then and never replied to her message, she could not resist falling head over heels for him.

Subsequently, she could not hold herself back from going upstairs and coming to a halt outside Yara's room.

Moments later, when she pushed open the door unknowingly and entered the room, Yara had changed into her casual wear. She was sitting in front of the mirror and combing her messy long hair.

Melissa cut to the chase at once. "Don't beat around the bush! What do you intend to tell me about him?"

"Yandel used to treat you really well, didn't he? But ever since he came across me here, he has been refusing to meet you and reply to your message, am I right?" Yara sneered.

With her temper flaring, Melissa fumed, "So what? If not because of you, he wouldn't have changed. If you've never played any underhand tactics, Yandel and I won't end up like this!"

She had fallen deeply for Yandel, but everything had been ruined by Yara.

The latter tossed her comb on the table and looked coldly into Melissa's reflection in the mirror. "Yandel is indeed a sc*mbag! He has lied to both of us! As the CEO of Dream Corporation, don't you know who's the Chairman backing him up? By the way, you've seen her before. She's Natalie Nichols!"

Dumbstruck, Melissa staggered a few steps behind. "Natalie Nichols? Which one do you mean?"

For Melissa, she used to have a paternal sister of the same name, but she had already passed away five years ago. Meanwhile, the other Natalie Nichols was the ugly woman Samuel had a soft spot for, as mentioned by her parents.

"Which one do you think she is?" Yara asked her instead.

Melissa furrowed her brows and retorted in bafflement, "What do you mean which one? Wasn't your twin sister perished in a fire five years ago? How's it possible for her to come back from the dead again?"

Chapter 522 Yara Continues To Brainwash Her

Yara could not resist heaving a silent sigh and snorting. Oh my! Melissa Nichols' logical thinking is non-existence indeed. I can't believe she still thinks it is merely a coincidence for two different persons to have the same name! Fine, I'll go with the flow and play around with her mind then!

She gritted her teeth and hissed, "Yeah! My twin sister had already perished five years ago. Natalie Nichols, the current Chairman of Dream Corporation, is also Samuel's mistress at the moment! To take revenge against me, she assigned Yandel to approach you deliberately to drive the wedge between us!"

Her words sent Melissa into a tizzy. She shook her head in exasperation. "It's impossible! I don't believe it! How is it possible that he doesn't have any feelings for me!"

Deep down, she insisted that Yara had played mind games to steal Yandel's heart. She refused to believe that he was solely making use of her without having any feelings for her.

Yara got up to her feet and turned to move toward Melissa. She pinched her cheeks and scoffed, "Why are you stubborn as a mule? You claim that Yandel has feelings for you. But have you ever received any gift from him? Did he remember about your birthday or give you any promises? Not to mention, he has never made the first move. It seems both you and your mom have been building castles in the air all this while!"

Melissa was at a loss for words to refute her. Tears trickled down her cheeks as Yara's words stabbed at her heart.

"You claim that I've seduced Yandel and stolen his heart. But how can you be so sure that he's bowing to me? Has he given me any gifts or have you seen anything with your own eyes? Heed my words. Not only you, but I've also fallen into his trap too!" Yara could not help but feel amused and chuckle.

Nonetheless, she wiped the tears off Melissa's face and added, "He's taking revenge against me on behalf of Natalie Nichols, do you understand? Yandel is seemingly doing everything for her sake and seeking me out for payback. I bet it never crosses their minds that you'll be so innocent and fell for him so hopelessly!"

In an instant, there was a hint of abhorrence amid pain in Melissa's eyes as she shrieked in agitation, "But why?" Why must she do that? She has already won Samuel's heart, but why did she still have to do that? Why did she set me up too? After all, I've never stepped on her toes!"

"That's because she's the one without any sense of shame!" Yara cupped Melissa's dainty face in her palms as she looked intently into her eyes with intense loathing.

"I only found out she's the Chairman of Dream Corporation after attending the conference yesterday. Even Yandel is one of those having the hots for her." It was obvious that Yara was adding fuel to the fire.

"Are you serious?" Melissa asked quizzically.

"Melissa, try to think about it. If they don't have a relationship, do you think Yandel is willing to be exploited by her?" Yara pointed out.

"You've a point..." Melissa mumbled.

"Melissa, Yandel might not be willing to enter such a relationship with her. But undeniably, this has become a trend in the competitive business industry nowadays. Without Natalie Nichols, Yandel might still be able to see who's the one who has the purest love for him..."

Melissa cut her off apprehensively. "You're right. I'm sure he's not willing to do that too! I can't let Natalie Nichols make a fool out of me!"

Yara let go of Melissa's hands and massaged her temples. "I'm exhausted. I feel like taking a shower and getting to bed. Let's drop the subject. I'm telling you the truth now as I don't wish to see you fooled by them. Anyway, don't waste time thinking about any other things. I don't even have a way out, let alone you!"

She hinted to Melissa to leave deliberately to give the latter a feeling that she would not help her.

Not to mention, she knew too well that Melissa would not put anything out of her mind easily.

She foresaw the latter would settle the score with Natalie by all means. By then, she only had to exacerbate the situation by taking action discreetly. Apart from having Melissa as the scapegoat, she would stand to benefit when she and Natalie crossed swords.

After all, she was not alone herself at the moment. Since the mysterious man was backing her up as her mentor, she was convinced that she would be able to defeat Natalie.

Chapter 523 Two More Adorable Kids

In the meantime, Malcolm could finally allocate time to visit Natalie in Dellmoor. At the same time, he could barely wait to meet Xavian and Clayton.

After finalizing the time to meet both the kids, he headed toward the fast-food restaurant, their meeting point, with a big bag of local food products from the highland.

Surprisingly, Malcolm was the one setting the venue.

He had been having a simple healthy diet with Donna on the highland. Somehow, he craved some other types of food after having non-greasy dishes with a bland taste every day. Thus, he planned to grab the opportunity to savor French fries and soft drinks that he had not eaten for ages.

When he stepped into the fast-food restaurant, Xavian and Clayton were already there. Apart from that, there were two other adorable kids alongside them. They turned out to be Franklin and Sophia.

Malcolm could not resist blinking his eyes in disbelief as he moved toward them in a slow motion.

At the sight of Malcolm moving at a snail's pace, Xavian waved at him eagerly and urged, "Mr. Trevor, we are here!"

Moments later, Malcolm stopped next to the kids and put down the heavy bag of local food products from the highland. He threw Franklin a glance, then switched to cast a look at Sophia before asking curiously, "They are..."

"Mr. Trevor, they're my stepfather's son and daughter. Ah! You haven't met my stepfather, have you? He's an outstanding man and has been taking good care of Mommy. Both Xavian and I are very happy with him!" Clayton introduced proudly, puffing out his chest.

Xavian nodded and echoed, "Clayton is right! He's indeed a lot better than our worthless father!"

After squinting his eyes and pondering for quite a while, something finally struck Malcolm.

He asked warily, "The stepfather whom you mention... Could it be Samuel Bowers?"

"Yeah!" the two boys replied simultaneously.

It had been a while since Malcolm heard that Samuel had fraternal twins five years ago. Nevertheless, he never had the chance to meet them as he had been leading a secluded life in the highland. Now that he not only could meet Clayton and Xavian but also the fraternal twins, he was as happy as a clam!

Malcolm had been having a soft spot for kids. However, he did not even have a granddaughter-in-law as his grandson had been burying himself in his work.

When Xavian and Clayton used to stay temporarily with them on the highland previously, he and Donna had treated both of them as though they were their great-grandsons.

Now that there were two other adorable kids, no words could describe the jubilation surging within him. He stretched out his arms excitedly, beckoning Franklin and Sophia, "Come to me! Let me give you a hug!"

Franklin and Sophia exchanged glances without stretching out their hands. They scrutinized the white-haired elderly with a hint of vigilance.

Malcolm could only touch his nose feeling rather embarrassed and asked, "So both of you are Samuel's children! Your names are Franklin and Sophia, right?"

Astounded, Franklin arched his brows. "How do you know about that?"

"Yeah! Mr. Trevor, how do you know about it?" Both Xavian and Clayton were stupefied too.

Malcolm explained triumphantly, "It's because I'm not only your mommy's master. At the same time, I'm your daddy's master too! Didn't he ever mention that he has a master leading a secluded life on the highland?"

Right that instant, something came into Franklin and Sophia's minds.

Sophia pulled the hem of Malcolm's shirt lightly and asked hesitantly, "So you're really our daddy's master?"

"Of course. What's the point for me to bluff you? After all, I'm the master of Xavian and Clayton's mom. Xavian and Clayton can prove that I'm not lying." Malcolm tried to convince the twins.

Xavian nodded and spoke up for him. "It's true! Mr. Trevor is Mommy's master!"

Meanwhile, Clayton added solemnly, "Mommy used to bring us to stay with Mr. Trevor and Mrs. Trevor for a while when we were young. In fact, she ever mentioned to us that even though Mr. Trevor seems to sound a bit playful, he is an expert in the medical field and the corporate world. On top of that, he's undoubtedly a man of his words and an excellent master!"