

Happiness 562-570

The Promise of Happiness

### **Chapter 561 Joined Forces**

When the nurse saw Samuel's injuries, she was uncertain. "Sir, you're injured as well. Under this circumstance, the hospital won't allow you to be a blood donor. Why don't you let the gentleman next to you do it instead?"

Samuel narrowed his eyes and started to undo his cufflinks.

His eyes turned cold and determined. "I'll bear full responsibility for my decision. Stop wasting time. Where is the blood transfusion room? You can take as much blood from me as the patient needs."

The nurse was startled by the icy aura coming from Samuel. She nodded timidly and took Samuel to the blood transfusion room.

Billy was worried that something might go wrong during the blood transfusion for Samuel, so he followed right behind them.

Back in the operating theatre, Christopher had different kinds of medical devices connected to him.

When Natalie saw the six wounds on Christopher's back, she was taken aback despite being mentally prepared for it.

Her hesitation lasted only a few seconds.

The moment Natalie picked up her scalpel, she made a clean cut on one of Christopher's wounds and removed the bloody bullet with a tweezer. She then placed the bullet in a glass container.

After that, she applied the ointment that she had concocted on the wound.

Natalie's assistant was stunned to see that. "Doctor, why are you putting this on his wound instead of suturing it?"

If he had not witnessed the professional manner in which Natalie had removed the bullet, the assistant would have thought that Natalie was a quack. After being in the medical profession for more than ten years, he had never seen anyone do something like that before in the operating theatre!

Natalie was fighting to save Christopher's life and had no time to explain.

"Suture the wound."

"You-"

"Do as I say. Suture the wound."

Natalie repeated herself as she began to extract the second bullet. Her voice sounded hoarse but calming. She was able to direct her assistant's attention back to the operation.

The surgery went on, and bags of blood continued to arrive.

The blood had to be replenished every five minutes.

Warm blood kept pumping into Christopher's body.

Perspiration started to appear on Natalie's forehead. In spite of that, she continued to focus on the extraction of the remaining bullets from Christopher's body.

One bullet...

Two...

Three...

Even after Natalie had placed the last bullet into the glass container, she did not relax.

Her assistant was not as fast as she was, so Natalie started to stitch Christopher's ruptured organs up.

During the period, Natalie would check on Christopher's vital signs every now and then.

When all of his wounds had been stitched up, there were no significant changes to Christopher's breathing, heart rate, and blood pressure.

It was only then that the surgery could be declared a success.

Natalie began to cry as she took a look at her bloodied hands and Christopher, who was lying on the operating table.

Her assistant and the rest of the nurses could not believe that Christopher was alive.

To be honest, when they first saw the patient, they thought he would be dead for sure. They did not expect to save his life under Natalie's leadership.

That is unbelievable!

Her medical skills certainly surpass those of the specialists in our hospital!

The lights in the operating theatre dimmed.

Both Yandel and Joshua rushed to the door.

Natalie walked out and removed her wet mask.

Joshua had cried till his voice became hoarse. "How is Christopher?"

Natalie patted his shoulders and replied with a smile, "He's out of danger now."

Joshua could not believe his ears.

Once Natalie had shared the good news, she blacked out and fainted from exhaustion.

## **Chapter 562 The Protective Natalie**

Natalie fell into a deep slumber.

Amidst her grogginess, she seemed to hear many people talking, but it felt surreal.

She was so tired that she could not even open her eyes.

At that point, she felt that she was falling slowly into a bottomless abyss.

“Natalie.”

All of a sudden, she stopped falling. Jennie’s face and voice appeared in front of her.

“Mom...”

Natalie was getting agitated. She wanted to embrace Jennie, but she could not when her arms went through her mother’s body.

“Natalie, listen to me. Stop your investigation on the Bayer family.”

“Mom, I must avenge you and Granddad!”

“Since the Bayer family is gone, forget it. Nothing must ever happen to you. A peaceful life is more important than anything else!”

“Mom, I can’t just let the Bayer family perish for nothing!”

Jennie faded away, and Natalie woke up from her dream.

“Mom, don’t go!”

Natalie pursed her lips, opened her eyes, and saw the white ceiling of the ward.

“You’re awake?” Yandel lowered himself and asked, “Boss, how are you feeling? Are you thirsty or hungry? Do you want to have some solid food or soup?”

Natalie’s face was ashen, and her hospital gown had been soaked in perspiration.

“Yandel, was I out for a long time?”

“You have been sleeping for more than ten hours. Boss, you fainted shortly after you came out from the operating theatre. I was so scared!”

“Has Christopher’s condition stabilized?”

“He is still unconscious, but his condition is stable. Joshua is with him now.” Then, Yandel scooped a bowl of mushroom soup and picked up the spoon. “Boss, have some soup first. Open up. I’ll feed you.”

Natalie frowned and took the bowl of soup from Yandel with her unhurt right hand.

“I can feed myself.”

“All right then.”

Natalie took a sip of the mushroom soup and steadied herself before questioning Yandel.

“Yandel, when I told you to block Samuel off, I didn’t tell you to hurt him. Why was there blood on his face?” She glared at him before continuing, “Just because you have been with me for years doesn’t mean I will let you off the hook.”

Yandel did not expect Natalie to be so protective. Still, he was not the one who had caused that injury.

Yandel explained with a miserable look on his face, “Boss, even if I had the guts, I wouldn’t be able to do it. I tried to stall him according to your instruction. But, you must know that Samuel is exactly like you. There was no way I could have stopped him. In the end, a sprinkler truck hit his car. That was why he slowed down.”

Natalie was stumped after hearing that.

She had been worried that Samuel would not dare to make a move. That was why she had ordered Yandel to stall him.

It turned out that a car accident did the job, not Yandel.

That car accident had happened at such a coincidental time.

She doubted that the accident was meant to hurt Samuel. On the contrary, the true intention of it was to keep Samuel away from the kidnapping incident.

If Samuel had not gotten there in the nick of time, Sophia, Christopher, and herself would have perished in that abandoned warehouse.

Natalie looked up and asked Yandel, “Where’s Samuel?”

“He...” Yandel looked down and did not know how to answer her.

“What happened to him? Tell me the truth!”

Since Natalie had regained consciousness before Samuel, Yandel was well aware that it would be hard to get himself out of it if he lied. In the end, he told her everything in detail, “The hospital doesn’t have enough blood for Christopher, so Samuel made up for the rest by donating his blood. Once he knew that Christopher is safe, he fainted just like you did because he has given too much blood.”

## **Chapter 563 It Cannot Be Yara**

Natalie bit her lips.

She lifted the blanket off herself and wanted to get down from the bed. “I’ll go and keep him accompanied.”

Yandel tried to stop her. “Boss, Billy is with Samuel now. You don’t have to worry about him. The Bowers family has sent their private doctor here to treat him. After all, Samuel is the head of the Bowers family. Even if they have to exhaust everything they own, they won’t let anything untoward happen to him.”

Seeing that Natalie was still worried, Yandel continued, “Boss, your main priority right now is to make a full recovery! The moment Samuel awakens, he will be heartbroken to see you in this state!”

Natalie touched her face and said no more. She picked up the bowl of mushroom soup and finished the rest of it.

“Yandel.”

“Yes?”

Natalie narrowed her eyes. “There is no way Melissa can plan something like this.”

With a frown, Yandel asked, “Could it be Yara?”

After pondering on it, Natalie shook her head. “Most people won’t be able to plot something like this. I don’t think it’s Yara either. If she had been so meticulous back then, Xavian, Clayton, and I would have been burnt to death!”

She was not underestimating Yara.

It was just that Yara had yet to attain such a level.

In order to plan something as elaborate and meticulous as this, the person must be willing to fork out a huge amount of money. In addition, the mastermind would have access to illegal resources such as drugs and killers. There might be more than she had yet to discover.

Somehow, she felt that the mastermind had something to do with the murder of her granddad.

Then again, she was not so sure about it!

She still had her hyper-realistic mask on. Other than those close to her, very few people were aware of her real identity. Even her cover-up as the Chairman of Dream had been revealed a few days ago.

Yandel could sense how hard Natalie was thinking by the way she frowned.

“Boss, why don’t you take a rest first? Once you have recovered, we’ll discuss this matter in detail and make our next move accordingly.”

“Okay.”

In the morgue at the police station, Thomas, Yvonne, and Yara stood in front of the freezer and watched the two police officers open it.

The police officers unzipped the bag and asked, “Can all of you confirm that the deceased is Melissa?”

The corpse had been in the freezer for eight hours, and the cold air was emanating from it.

Melissa had died in a heinous manner. Her eyes looked as if she was staring at someone. Her mouth was slightly open. There was a gaping, dark hole between her eyebrows.

Judging from the way her corpse looked, Melissa had been killed with a clean shot from the front.

Before arriving at the police station, Yvonne had been praying that the police had gotten it wrong. It could not have been Melissa. Unfortunately, looking at the body of her daughter with her own eyes, Yvonne’s world fell apart, and she collapsed.

“Melissa! Melissa! What happened to you?” Yvonne caressed the cold, hard face of Melissa and started wailing. “You’re my one and only daughter! Everything I have done is for you! Open your eyes and look at me, won’t you?”

Naturally, there was no response.

Even though Thomas did not react the same way as Yvonne, he looked as if he had aged a decade.

Melissa had been the most useless child out of the three daughters he had, but she was his favorite nonetheless.

His two older daughters were from Jennie. He had always found it hard to like them because of the secret that happened twenty years ago. Moreover, they resembled Jennie so much that he found them disgusting.

His favorite daughter had passed away shortly after her twentieth birthday. Tears were flowing down Thomas’ face too.

Yara was the calmest among them.

She looked at Melissa’s body and did not show much emotions on her face.

Melissa’s death benefitted her in every way. Since someone had destroyed the evidence for her, there was no need for her to dirty her hands.

Seeing the way Thomas and Yvonne mourned the death of Melissa, she realized she might look out of place if she did not shed some tears.

As such, Yara pinched herself and soon, tears began flowing down her face as well.

## **Chapter 564 The Acting of Yara**

After confirming Melissa’s identity, Yvonne was unwilling to take her hand away from the freezer.

She screamed like a madwoman. “I’m not leaving! Let go of me! She is feeling cold here. I want to stay here with her!”

The cops were used to such scenes. They directly carried Yvonne and dragged her out.

Overwhelmed with sorrow, Yvonne shouted for a while and eventually passed out.

A female cop brought her to the infirmary of the police station to rest.

Thomas clenched his fists tightly and uttered sadly, “Melissa was still so young. She had not even started the best part of her life. I didn’t expect she would die before me!”

“Dad, my condolences!” Yara pretended to comfort him. “Even though Melissa was not around anymore, you still have me. I am your birth daughter. I will take care of you on behalf of Melissa too.”

Thomas’s mood improved tremendously upon hearing that.

“Yara, you are the only daughter I have left. You must take care of yourself!”

Yara was sneering inward. Yet, she put on an obedient look. "Dad, don't worry. I will."

After confirming Melissa's death, Thomas's heart was filled with confusion and hatred.

"Who exactly killed Melissa?" He gritted his teeth in wrath. "I swear I will make that person pay greatly!"

Just then, the cop in charge of the case came to Thomas, asking for his signature.

Thomas immediately grabbed the cop's hand and said emotionally, "My daughter was still fine yesterday. How did she die today? Who the h\*ll shot her? She was just an innocent girl!"

"Mr. Nichols, please calm down." The cop comforted him and continued to say, "Based on our early-stage investigation, Melissa, your daughter, seemed to be involved in a child kidnapping case. She was killed by her accomplices in the end!"

"How could that be possible?" Thomas could not believe his ears. "Was this some mistake? How could my daughter get involved in a kidnapping case?"

The cop took a picture out of the profile and passed it to Thomas.

The picture was taken by some surveillance cameras.

In the picture, Melissa was using black tape to seal a little girl's mouth on the passenger's seat.

Thomas's expression darkened as he saw Sophia's tiny face. Did Melissa kidnap Samuel's daughter, my granddaughter? Was she out of her mind?

"Is there some kind of misunderstanding?" Thomas found it hard to accept that truth.

"Mr. Nichols, there are many other pictures like this one." The cop suggested, "However, we suggest running a full autopsy on your daughter's body based on the procedure. I hope you agree to it."

Remained in a daze, Thomas was about to take the pen and sign the autopsy consent form.

"Hold on a second."

Yara pulled Thomas to a corner.

"Yara..."

"Dad, only now I know Sophia was the one that Melissa kidnapped." Yara displayed a desperate look. "She was going after me! Even though Samuel doesn't want to marry me for now, Franklin and Sophia are his children. If anything were to happen to Sophia this time, how am I supposed to explain it to Samuel and Kenneth?"

Thomas was unable to answer her. He let out a long sigh. "How could Melissa be so foolish?"

"Dad, I think Melissa's death was not an accident. Samuel's men were most probably behind this."

Thomas bit his lip. "Yara, how could Samuel..."

"Did you expect for him to have mercy?" Yara's expression turned utterly dark. "Melissa is dead and that should suffice as an explanation to the Bowers family. If you let the cop continue to look into this, things

might get messier. Do you want the Bowers family to come to question us as to why Melissa would harm her nephew?"

### **Chapter 565 More Stubborn**

Thomas had no idea why Melissa did so.

However, he agreed with Yara.

If Samuel and the Bowers family came to reprimand him, he would not be able to answer them.

The death of a person was just like the dousing of a candle. Even though Thomas could not figure out Melissa's real intention, he figured it would still be meaningless for the cop to get to the bottom of the matter. It would not change the fact that the Nichols family had been wronged.

He had lost Melissa forever.

He had to accept the cruel reality no matter what.

He figured he still needed to rely on Yara from now on. As a father, he should not create more trouble for Yara.

When the officer saw Thomas and Yara come back from the discussion, he passed the form to Thomas again. "Mr. Nichols, please sign this if there is no problem."

Thomas did not lift his head as he rejected, "That's not necessary."

"Are you sure?" The cop furrowed his brows, unable to comprehend Thomas's sudden change in attitude.

"I'm sure." Thomas took a deep breath. "You guys have found out the truth through other clues. It doesn't matter anymore if we do the autopsy at this point. I hope Melissa be buried and rest in peace as soon as possible."

She had a short and miserable life. I hope she will have a better one in her next lifetime.

The officer respected the decision of the family. As such, they wrapped it up and left the scene.

"Yara, I have a headache. I will go back and rest..."

"Dad, I'll walk you home."

"Okay."

As Yara was supporting Thomas, her lips curled into a slight smile.

She did not care how Melissa died.

She did not want the officer to do the autopsy because she was worried they might discover the specialty drug in Melissa's body.



Even though Gale told her that only King knew the formula for the drug, she was still worried the autopsy might reveal something.

She had set up such a perfect plan.

It was so close to killing either Sophia or Natalie. She would not mind which one of them lose their life.

Yet, Natalie managed to escape that dreadful fate. Yara was beyond exasperated upon thinking that.

She was lucky this time. Next time, I will make sure she won't be!

Meanwhile, in the hospital.

Natalie could not help but go to visit Samuel.

As soon as Yandel left, Natalie sneaked out of her ward and ran to Samuel's ward.

Billy was bewildered to see Natalie wearing a patient's outfit. "You..."

"Shh!" Natalie pointed at Samuel and made a gesture asking Billy to keep silent.

Billy immediately covered his mouth.

Natalie made another gesture signaling Billy to leave, and she would stay with Samuel.

Billy shook his head and signaled for Natalie to leave.

None of them was willing to give in as they kept signaling at each other.

As Samuel slowly opened his eyes, he saw the conflict between the two.

Billy was acting stubbornly.

Natalie was even more stubborn than him.

Both of them were casting stares and making gestures without making a sound.

"Billy, please leave," Samuel suddenly uttered with a meek voice.

Billy nearly choked upon hearing that. He did not expect he would be the one to have lost in this situation.

"Mr. Bowers, do you mean me?"

"Is there someone else named Billy here?" Samuel rolled his eyes and glanced at Billy.

Billy knew Samuel favored Natalie. He had no choice but to obey. He turned and walked out of the ward, shutting the door behind him.

"Samuel, you are awake!" Natalie walked to Samuel's bed excitedly.

She grabbed Samuel's hand and wanted to take his pulse. Yet, he pushed her hand away.

## **Chapter 566 Try To Imitate**

Natalie's smile froze on her face.

"Samuel..." She began to panic after seeing Samuel unwilling to cooperate.

"Why are you wearing a patient's clothes too? What's wrong with you?" Samuel furrowed his brows tightly. "And why did you come to my ward? You should be resting in your ward."

All of a sudden, Samuel acted indifferently toward her.

"Yes, I am injured. That's why I am wearing this." Natalie pouted. "I heard someone fall into a coma after transfusing too much blood. I came to check on a certain someone because I was worried. But it seems my goodwill is not appreciated."

Upon hearing that, the crease between Samuel's brows tightened.

"I know you are mad at me..." Natalie ignored Samuel's dark expression as her hand still grabbed his. "However, you still want to see me, don't you? Or else you won't ask Billy to leave the ward."

Natalie's words pierced through Samuel's vulnerable heart.

Indeed, he was utterly pissed. In fact, he had never been so enraged in his life.

When he opened his eyes and saw Natalie, he wanted to chase her away. Yet, when he opened his mouth, he ended up asking her to stay.

"You!" Samuel's chest heaved up and down as he tried to suppress his rage.

"Let's not fight. Shall we?" Natalie looked into Samuel's eyes sincerely.

Samuel was rendered speechless. He was pondering if he should give in to Natalie so easily.

However, his struggle did not last very long.

Natalie had climbed onto his bed and leaned gently against him. Her arms hugged him tightly.

"Please don't be mad..." Natalie leaned her face against his chest and coaxed, "I nearly died in that abandoned warehouse. It was not easy for me to escape from it. Can you please don't fight with me?"

When in great danger, one's mind would think of many things.

It was said that the ones who appeared in their mind meant the most to them.

As the gunshot sounded, Natalie thought of Xavian, Clayton, Franklin, Sophia, and Samuel.

After escaping from death, she appreciated her life even more, and she appreciated every second she had with Samuel.

Samuel did not respond after hearing Natalie's words.

Natalie knew she had crossed his line severely this time. She lifted her face and observed Samuel's expression cautiously.

Samuel's wounded face was devoid of expression. He did not seem to be moved at all by her words.

"Are you still mad?"

Samuel kept his silence.

“Please don’t be mad!”

Samuel still did not say anything.

Natalie did not expect Samuel to be so difficult to persuade. With that, she figured she was left with no choice.

Her hand grabbed Samuel’s shirt tightly as she leaned forward and kissed him.

She seldom took the initiative at that time. From her memory, Samuel was the one who initiated any intimacy previously.

She was not good in making the first move.

However, that was the only thing she could think of.

She kept telling herself not to give up. At the same time, she kept thinking back about how Samuel had always treated her.

She recalled how he would usually kiss her deeply. She tried to imitate him while her tongue domineeringly pried through his teeth and broke into his mouth.

### **Chapter 567 Your Health Is More Important**

Samuel blamed himself more than he blamed Natalie. He could not accept the fact that he failed to protect the woman he loved the most.

It was rumored that Samuel was powerful and rich enough to rival a country. The power of the Bowers family was evident with the appearance of such rumors.

Samuel thought if he strengthened the protection around Natalie, she would not be harmed. Yet, when danger approached, Samuel could not help but experience genuine fear.

He was overwhelmed with rage, guilt, and utter despair.

That was why he acted indifferently toward Natalie’s good gesture.

He was utterly stunned as Natalie kissed him.

She seldom kisses me. And it is the first time I have seen her behaving so desperately.

His heart skipped a beat, but he did not reveal his true feelings.

Natalie started to panic upon seeing Samuel’s indifference.

Is he so pissed that even a kiss doesn’t work? However, he did not push me away. It means I still have the chance.

Natalie intended to give her all. She reached her hand and started unbuttoning Samuel’s clothes.

Since I have decided to persuade him, I won’t hold anything back. I will do whatever it takes to succeed.

Her cold hand started caressing his warm chest. Samuel's heart started beating faster as his blood started racing through his body.

Suddenly, something came to Natalie's mind as she sensed the change in Samuel's body.

Hold on a second! I can't do this!

She remembered Samuel had just donated a lot of blood to Christopher. Yet, she was trying to excite him.

She did not mind if Samuel wanted to release his rage on her. However, she was worried if his body could stand it. She could not have anything happen to him.

With that in mind, she figured she should stop.

As such, her kiss paused abruptly.

Her hand retreated slowly from Samuel's chest.

She wanted to climb down from the bed and leave the ward. She figured she should come back after Samuel recovered fully. There is no need to rush this. I can wait.

Yet, before she could do so, Samuel grabbed her hand tightly. She was rendered speechless by his sudden act.

"Where do you think you are going?" Samuel asked with a low, hoarse voice, sounding like a hungry beast.

"Please rest well..." Natalie uttered. "I will go back to my ward first. After you recover, I will come to see you again."

Natalie tried to free her hand from Samuel's grip upon saying that. Yet, she failed to do so after struggling a few times.

"Who gave you the permission to leave?" Samuel stared at her earnestly as he breathed heavily.

"You did."

"Did I say such a thing?"

Natalie tried hard to recall their conversation. Actually, maybe he didn't.

"I guess not..."

Samuel pulled Natalie back into his embrace and ordered, "Carry on then."

"Samuel... I forgot that you had donated a lot of blood..." Natalie furrowed her brows and whispered, "Your health is more important. If you get excited now, it might hurt your body."

"Don't worry about my body."

"But..."

"Carry on." Samuel repeated his words.

“Samuel... Your health...”

Before she could finish her sentence, Samuel landed an aggressive kiss on her lips.

Natalie was stunned by his domineering gesture.

She knew Samuel was strong, but she did not expect him to be so strong even after his blood transfusion.

Her body was worn out.

She started pleading with Samuel for mercy, yet the latter ignored her.

The more he thought of the fear of almost losing her, the more he wanted to conquer her body.

### **Chapter 568 Guard The Ward**

Billy blushed fiercely as he heard those sounds coming from the ward.

This... He thought he could be spared their public display of intimacy once he left the ward. Yet, he still got caught in the middle of it.

Meanwhile, a young pretty nurse heard there was a handsome and rich patient hospitalized in the VIP ward. She wanted to grab the chance and take care of Samuel personally.

When she approached Samuel’s ward, she was blocked by Billy at the door.

“What are you doing?”

“Sir, excuse me. Please let me in.” The nurse displayed a polite and sweet smile. “I am doing my job. I am going to take his temperature and blood pressure.”

“It’s not necessary.” Billy rejected on behalf of Samuel.

“What do you mean by that?” The nurse acted persistently as she was eager to go inside.

“Mr. Bowers is asleep.”

“It’s all right if he is sleeping. I don’t need to wake him to do these.”

Her response struck Billy dumb. “Either way, you can’t go in.”

The nurse still wanted to use the regulations as the reason to go in. Suddenly, she heard a woman’s moaning voice coming from inside.

Her face turned red instantly.

“What’s going on in there?”

“I’ve told you. He is asleep.” Billy emphasized his words. “You can’t go in there now. It is not the right time.”

The nurse knew her hope had vanished. With that, she stomped her way out of the place.

After a long time later, the two in the ward slowly dozed off.

Natalie was exhausted as she burrowed herself in Samuel's embrace.

Feeling her warmth, Samuel was overwhelmed with satisfaction. At that moment, he felt he owned the entire world.

Indeed, it was hard for him to forgive Natalie's act. However, as he was hugging her, his rage vanished into thin air.

If there were anything in this world that could overcome Samuel, it would be Natalie.

"Nat..."

Samuel let out a sigh as he planted a tender kiss on her forehead.

Even though the whole thing seemed to be resolved, Samuel suspected something more behind all those happenings. Nevertheless, he was not able to see through it all.

For the moment, he did not want to worry about that. He wanted to cherish the moment as he hugged Natalie tighter and closed his eyes slowly.

Dawn kicked in the following day.

Billy had guarded outside the ward for the entire night. He barely got any sleep at all.

Kenneth heard about his grandson fainted while transfusing blood. With Steven's companion, he rushed to the hospital.

Billy's drowsiness disappeared instantly as he saw Kenneth appearing in front of the ward. "Old Mr. Bowers, good morning..."

"Morning," Kenneth responded briefly and waited for Billy to make way.

Billy's face turned utterly red as he blocked the door with his body.

"Billy, what are you doing?" Kenneth cast an irritated look at Billy.

"Nothing..." Billy stood still and choked on his words. "Mr. Bowers is sleeping. The doctor says that the patient needs to rest well, and it is better if no one disturbs him..."

"Get out of my way!" Kenneth shouted angrily. "I am just here to visit my grandson. I won't wake him if he is sleeping. He is my grandson! Are you worried that I might harm him?"

"That's not what I meant. But, it is not the right time now..."

Steven noticed the dilemma on Billy's face. He guessed there must be something or someone in the ward.

What is the secret that he doesn't want anyone else to find out?

Besides Natalie, Steven could not think of anyone else.

## Chapter 569 How Can She Hurt Sophia

“Grandpa, that’s not what Billy meant.” Steven tried to defuse the situation.

“Yup, Mr. Steven is right.” Billy nodded fervently.

“What do you mean he’s right?” Kenneth glared at Billy and uttered coldly, “Get out of my way. You’ll be sorry if you don’t.”

Steven knew that the old man was hot-tempered and extremely stubborn. He was sure that even he himself wouldn’t be able to stop his grandpa, not to mention Billy, who was just Samuel’s assistant.

“Billy!”

Steven shot a look at Billy, who understood what the man meant and backed away quietly.

After taking a deep inhale, Kenneth placed his hand on the doorknob and was intending to open the door when the door was suddenly opened from the inside.

“Grandpa...” Samuel greeted Kenneth respectfully when he pushed the door open.

“You’re awake? How are you feeling?” Kenneth asked while sizing his grandson up.

“I merely donated some blood. I’m fine,” Samuel, who was wearing a hospital gown, replied.

“Nonsense!” Kenneth frowned and scolded, “Do you still remember that you’re now the patriarch of the Bowers family? Your status and state of health are both very important! Even if it’s for someone significant, there are others who can donate their blood instead. Do you really have to do it yourself?”

“Others can do it if it’s for someone else, just not this person,” Samuel replied calmly, but his tone was firm.

“You!”

Kenneth was getting increasingly angry from scolding Samuel that his chest rose and fell rapidly. After catching his breath, he said, “Samuel, I have something to ask you. Let’s talk inside the ward.”

“Let’s go somewhere else.”

“Why?” Kenneth asked in confusion.

“Nat is sleeping. She’s very tired. Her rest will be disturbed if we talk,” Samuel replied without any change in expression.

When Steven and Billy heard that, both of them shut their eyes simultaneously, waiting for Kenneth to explode with rage.

However, after waiting for a while, all they could hear was silence, and there was no response from the old man at all.

Seconds later, Kenneth nodded slightly and replied, “Sure, let her rest then. Steven, can you help to find another room for us to talk?”

After hearing the man’s words, Steven and Billy gasped in shock, wondering if they were hallucinating.

Kenneth had always treated Yara like his own granddaughter and regarded Natalie as a thorn in his flesh! As such, both men could hardly believe that his attitude had suddenly changed.

“Grandpa?” Steven was still not sure if his ears were playing tricks on him.

“Steven, I asked you to find us another room. Why are you still standing here?”

“Sure, Grandpa! I’ll see to that right away!”

Soon, the room was ready.

Samuel, Steven, and Kenneth sat in the hospital conference room while Billy prepared some refreshments for the three men at the pantry next door.

Kenneth placed both of his hands on top of his walking stick and asked, “Is it done by someone our family has offended in recent years?”

“Nope.” Samuel rejected his grandpa’s guess at once. “Even though they had kidnapped Sophia, their target was clearly Nat.”

“What!”

A deep crease appeared between Kenneth’s brows.

Before that, he was only aware that something had happened to Samuel and Natalie. As such, when he heard that his precious great-granddaughter was also kidnapped, he was so shocked that his heart almost stopped.

“What exactly is going on?” Kenneth asked.

“On the surface, it seemed as if Melissa had kidnapped Sophia to threaten Nat. However, Melissa is merely a pawn. The person behind the scenes hid their identity well and did not leave any trace behind.” Samuel paused for a moment before continuing, “I suspect there could be more than one person behind it. There might be two, or even more. It’s possible that it’s someone close to us as they know how much Sophia means to Nat.”

“Melissa? Yara’s half-sister?”

“Yup.”

“Even if they do not share the same mother, they are both from the Nichols family after all!” Kenneth slammed his fist on the table in fury before saying, “No matter what, Sophia is still her sister’s daughter! Even if there is a feud between her and Natalie, she shouldn’t have hurt Sophia!”

## **Chapter 570 No Evidence**

“Do you have any idea who the mastermind is?”

Samuel fell deep in thought after hearing his grandpa’s question.



Even though Natalie did not tell him everything about what happened last time, just judging by the fact that Yara had pretended to be Franklin and Sophia's biological mother back then, it was obvious that Yara had exceptionally good acting skills and was extremely ambitious.

Over the past five years, although he and the kids behaved coldly toward Yara, it was undeniable that the woman had treated Kenneth well and cared a lot for him.

Both Samuel and Kenneth were aware of that and were grateful.

Yara seemed to be completely uninvolved in the kidnapping incident as Melissa was the only one who was seen.

As Samuel did not have any concrete evidence that could prove Yara's involvement in the matter, he did not find it necessary to mention it.

Besides, even if he did, it was not possible for Kenneth to believe him.

After much thought, Samuel decided to keep his speculation to himself. "Grandpa, I have no clue yet."

"Thank goodness Sophia is fine." Kenneth put a hand to his chest to calm himself down before saying, "Whenever I think about the ordeal my darling Sophia had gone through, my heart would start pounding wildly, and I wish I could have taken her place instead. She still has such a long journey ahead of her. Nothing can happen to her!"

"When I reached, Nat was hugging Sophia tightly."

"Really?" Kenneth asked doubtfully.

"I won't lie about such things just to get you to like her. I'm not that lame." With a grave expression, Samuel continued, "The situation was extremely critical that day. If I had arrived just slightly later... I really cannot imagine what would have happened."

Kenneth nodded.

The three men continued chatting for a while before Steven helped Kenneth to the car, getting ready to head back home.

Before they left, Kenneth said to Samuel seriously, "Natalie had saved Sophia and is our family's benefactor. I won't be visiting often so that I won't disrupt her rest. While you recover, make sure you take care of her as well."

Even though the old man had a stern expression on his face while he spoke, it was obvious that his tone had softened a lot compared to the way he spoke about Natalie previously.

"Don't worry, I will take good care of her."

"All right."

Steven drove Kenneth back after that.

On the way home, Steven could not stop wondering why his grandpa had a sudden change in attitude and asked, "Grandpa, I thought you hated Natalie and wanted Yara to marry Sam. Did anything change?"

Kenneth, who was resting with his eyes shut, gradually opened his eyes when he heard that.

"If you have to choose, between Yara and Natalie, who would you want as your sister-in-law?"

After pondering over it for a while, Steven replied, "Grandpa, even if Yara is the biological mother of Franklin and Sophia, I would still choose Natalie to be my sister-in-law."

"And what's the reason for that?"

"When Sophia used to have aphasia, no matter how many local or overseas specialists Sam hired to treat her, the girl's condition did not show any improvement. You should know that very well too. However, Sophia seemed to have miraculously recovered after meeting Natalie."

"It's the same for Franklin. He used to be such a difficult kid. Other than Sam, he did not listen to anyone else, and even I was scared of him. Although he's still quite cocky now, his temper has improved so much. He is more mature now and has also become a much better brother to Sophia. More importantly..."

Steven paused for a second and raised his brows before continuing, "Sam is also a changed man. Last time, he was just like a robot without feelings who only knew how to work. Now, even though he still treats outsiders the same way, he has become more cheerful in front of family and people he trusts."

"Grandpa?" Seeing that Kenneth did not give any response after he said so much, Steven started to think that he might have said something wrong.

"Just concentrate on driving. I'm tired."

Kenneth closed his eyes after saying that, pretending to sleep.

But the truth was that Kenneth's heart was in a mess and did not know what to reply his grandson.

In the past, there was absolutely no doubt that between Yara and Sophia, Kenneth was on Yara's side. However, something had shifted within the man.

He could feel himself slowly moving toward Natalie's side.