The Promise of Happiness

Chapter 601 Jealous

"Samuel, he..." Natalie was shocked, for she didn't expect Samuel to end his online meeting earlier and come here.

To make matters worse, Samuel chose to show up now of all times. Natalie was unsure how much he had heard from the elders.

Natalie rubbed her temples and said, "Yana, Hans, I have to get going. I've previously promised Godfather that I would accompany him until the party ends. However, I never thought I had to leave earlier. Please relay my apologies to him for me."

Yana and Hans covered their mouths as they laughed and nodded in response. "No worries. Go ahead."

"Okay."

After that, Natalie rushed toward the marble pillar.

Natalie thought she didn't do anything wrong. However, she still felt anxious upon meeting Samuel's cold gaze. It was as if she was caught red-handed for cheating on him.

"Samuel, shall we go?" Natalie held Samuel's arm.

"Would you miss anything if you leave now?" After that, Samuel pursed his lips and raised his eyebrows.

"I've given my gift to Godfather and eaten the cake... What else would I miss?"

Natalie wasn't pretending to be clueless. On the contrary, she didn't understand what Samuel was implying.

Samuel stared at Natalie's innocent gaze for a while. After that, he leaned closer and whispered in her ear with his deep voice, "A CEO, a doctor, a young university student, so on and so forth. Natalie, wouldn't you want to meet them?"

Feeling shocked, Natalie quickly looked up at Samuel. Her heart skipped a beat when she met Samuel's eyes, which were filled with possessiveness.

Just as I expected, Samuel didn't only hear the conversation but also every word!

Natalie looked around for a while and said, "Samuel, I can explain... Anyway, your presence might attract people's attention. Let's go to another place. I'll explain it to you there."

Samuel pursed his lips and didn't respond to it.

Nonetheless, he overbearingly held Natalie's hand and interlocked his fingers with hers.

Natalie dared not wriggle free from Samuel and obediently followed him to the car.

When Natalie sat on the passenger's seat, she could feel the cold aura exuded by Samuel.

"Samuel..."

Suddenly, Natalie instinctively cowered back when Samuel turned around.

Samuel glanced at Natalie expressionlessly and put on the seatbelt for her.

"I... can explain it now..."

"Sit tight."

"Hmm?" Natalie didn't hear it clearly, perhaps because Samuel's voice was too soft.

Then, Samuel pulled to unbutton his collars, revealing his sexy collarbones, and said gently, "Tonight... you can explain it to me until I'm satisfied."

Soon, they left the banquet hall.

In the car, Natalie grabbed the seatbelt while anxiously biting her lips.

How can I explain it until Samuel is satisfied?

Since Samuel could be jealous because of the four kids, I think he must be furious right now. After all, he had seen many people propose to set up a blind date for me.

Like the calm before the storm, Natalie could not quite shake off the feeling of disquietment.

For forty minutes, Natalie's mind was a mess.

At last, Samuel pulled over at a mansion near the ocean.

"Get off the car."

Samuel hopped out after talking to Natalie.

After nodding in response, Natalie hopped out with Samuel and entered the mansion.

The moment she entered the mansion, Samuel carried her in his arms.

"Samuel, what are you doing?"

"Explain."

"It's not how I should explain myself."

Natalie tried to wriggle free from him and get down.

Since Natalie wasn't petite, Samuel supposedly couldn't stop her from getting down from his arms.

Much to Natalie's surprise, Samuel continued to carry her effortlessly and walk steadily.

Chapter 602 The Person Who Loves Me The Most

Samuel carried Natalie up to the bedroom on the first floor.

Since there were no lights in the bedroom, only moonlight shone through the French window.

After entering the bedroom, Samuel gently threw Natalie on the bed.

Since the bed was soft, Natalie didn't feel any back pain. However, the moment she wanted to sit up and talk to Samuel nicely, he pressed down on her.

"Samuel, I..."

Samuel kissed Natalie as soon as she spoke.

With a hint of anger, Samuel forcefully pried Natalie's lips open with his to invade her mouth.

After Samuel stopped kissing Natalie, she grabbed the chance and said, "I can explain myself. I didn't expect the elders to propose matchmaking for me. When I declined their offer, Godfather thought I was merely acting demure... It was why he wanted to vet the candidates for me."

"After your godfather has finished vetting the candidates, will you meet the young men to avoid letting him down?" Samuel gently bit her lips as though he was punishing her.

Natalie gazed at Samuel, "No, I won't. Since I already have you, I'll be responsible for you."

"Well, those men might be good candidates..."

"But I have you already!" Natalie wrapped her arms around Samuel's neck and said smilingly, "I know that you're the one who loves me the most in this world! No one will love me as much as you do if I lose you!"

"I'm glad that you realized that."

Samuel received a message earlier on, which stated that there was a commotion at the party.

Hence, he ended the meeting abruptly and rushed to the Weisses' party. However, all he saw was that the elders surrounded Natalie to promote their sons and grandsons to her.

At that time, Samuel couldn't help but feel immensely jealous.

From the beginning, he knew that Natalie couldn't conceal her competence despite wearing an ugly hyper-realistic mask.

Although Samuel understood it, he still failed to stop himself from being jealous.

Samuel put all his rationality behind him when the thought of someone coveting his beloved woman flashed across his mind. Hence, the only thing that filled his mind was to possess the woman.

"Samuel, do you know this?" Natalie said, her eyes gleaming brightly. "A wolve is faithful and will only love one partner in its lifetime. Even if its partner dies, it will choose to live alone. Now that I'm being loved by a wolf, do you think I will be interested in other men?"

Samuel felt touched as he listened to Natalie's romantic confession and caressed her long hair.

Although Samuel didn't expect to be coaxed by Natalie, his heart softened upon listening to Natalie's touching words.

What should I do?

Samuel was deeply in love with Natalie. It was something that he had never imagined in the past.

"I won't live alone after my beloved woman dies. Instead, I'll go to where she is to keep her company." Samuel made the promise as he murmured near Natalie's neck.

Natalie felt touched but also heartbroken upon hearing it. "Samuel, how can you do that?"

Samuel took her into his arms and said, "It's because I'm deeply in love with you. Even if the world perishes, I will never hand you over to someone else. You're the first and the only woman I love the most."

"Sam-"

Similarly, Samuel kissed Natalie's lips as soon as she spoke.

After kissing Natalie's lips, he moved his lips from her neck to other body parts downward. Slowly, Natalie's body melted into his embrace.

When Natalie reciprocated, Samuel got even more excited and wanted more.

Although Natalie was a strong woman, she was willing to put her guard down for Samuel and be gentle to him.

Chapter 603 Willing To Be His Servant

Rowan brought Martin to the best private hospital and hired the most esteemed andrologist.

After the doctor administered some painkillers to Martin, he finally felt that his lower body part wasn't as painful.

The doctor glanced at Martin and pondered over his condition for a while. Then, he asked Rowan to go to the hallway.

"Sir, how is Martin's condition now?"

The doctor explained with regrets. "Mr. Jackson, you have to prepare for the worst. Given that his injury is severe, his reproductive health will be affected. I might be able to save one of the two parts if he came half an hour earlier. However, his condition worsened because he arrived too late. Now, I can't save any of the two parts, and hence the patient will lose his fertility."

"What? How could it be?" Rowan murmured heartbreakingly.

Martin was Rowan's only son.

Now that Martin had lost his fertility, the Jacksons couldn't produce any heir forever.

At that moment, Martin blamed himself for forcing the women who slept with Martin to abort their babies.

Back then, he belittled the women for their low social status. Now, he was even willing to let a prostitute bear his grandchild.

When Rowan and the doctor talked, Martin had gotten off the bed and come to the door with his walking stick.

"Sir, is there no cure to my condition?" Martin asked straightforwardly.

"You should get some rest first," the doctor advised Martin.

Rage pulsed through Martin's veins when he bellowed. "I don't want to get some rest. My question is simple: Can I be cured? Can I sleep with women and have children? Tell me!"

Feeling that a chill ran down his spine, the doctor answered honestly, "Given the current medical technologies, it's definite that you'll lose your fertility. Please remain calm and get the necessary treatment for now. Then, we will arrange a psychologist to give you face-to-face counseling..."

Worrying that he would get caught in Martin's rage, the doctor hastily left the hallway once he finished.

Martin gazed at Rowan with his bloodshot eyes and said, "Dad..."

As soon as Martin spoke, Rowan slapped him and scolded him heartbrokenly, "How incompetent! You didn't only fail to court Natalie but also caused problems for yourself! I feel ashamed to have a son like you!"

Rowan paused for a while and continued, "Since you can't even produce an heir for the Jacksons, what's the use of keeping you as my son?"

Thump! Martin kneeled down upon hearing Rowan's words.

"Dad, I'm useless and have made a mistake. Nonetheless, I'm still your son!"

Much to Martin's surprise, Rowan shot a cold glance at Martin and said, "From now on, don't claim that you're my son. I can't stand such a humiliation. Considering that you're my biological son, I'll give the same amount of money for you to spend. However, you've lost the right to inherit Jackson Corporation. Also, I'll transfer your position to your sister..."

"Dad, you can't do this to me. You're taking away my power in the company!" Martin shrieked uncontrollably.

Rowan answered scornfully, "At the very least, your sister has given me a grandson who bears my surname. What have you done for the family? Now, you can't even give me a granddaughter. What makes you think you still deserve the right to inherit the company? You're just a good-for-nothing!"

Although Martin pitifully kneeled on the cold tiles, Rowan was cold-hearted and didn't give him a chance.

Martin kept kneeling on the floor for a long time until a woman came up to him in a pair of exquisite high-heels.

"Mr. Martin, do you hate Natalie to the core?" The woman squatted down and gazed at him with a grin.

Gritting his teeth, Martin replied, "Yes, I hate her. I wish to skin her alive! Who... are you?"

The woman said smilingly, her eyes filled with wickedness. "My identity isn't that important. What is more important is that we have a common enemy! Apart from going against the woman with you, I have a way to help regain your fertility."

"Is that true?" At that time, Martin had lost everything. Hence, he agreed to it excitedly upon hearing the proposal. "I'm willing to be your servant as long as you can cure me."

Chapter 604 You Must Promise Me

When Natalie woke up the following morning, she was surprised that Samuel was not lying next to her.

She lifted the blanket to get off the bed only to find hickeys all over her body.

As snippets of her steamy session with him on the previous night flashed across her mind, she blushed instantly. Thus, she kept fanning herself with her hands, hoping that it would help to cool her flushed face down.

After a quick wash-up, Natalie walked down the stairs and headed toward the living room. Moments later, when he was still nowhere to be seen, she moved toward the kitchen instinctively and saw him frying eggs.

Samuel had changed into a plain white shirt. Amid the grease and smell in the kitchen, he did not look odd at all. In fact, Natalie could even feel a rush of happiness and pride as she gazed lovingly at him.

Regardless of how assertive the omnipotent man was in the business industry, he would prioritize her wellbeing before everything else.

She tiptoed toward him and wrapped her arms around his lean waist as she murmured, "Morning."

Samuel, who was about to flip the eggs in the pan, stiffened momentarily. In an instant, his tensed frame relaxed at the softness of her body.

"Have you had enough sleep?" he asked.

"Yeah."

Oblivious that he was getting aroused, she continued to plaster herself against his back.

He turned around slightly, held her dainty face, and locked his lips on hers.

As they indulged themselves in the passionate moment, they only came to their senses when the smell of burnt eggs filled their nostrils.

After a simple breakfast, Natalie thought Samuel would take her back to the city. It never crossed her mind that he would take her to the beach.

The warm golden rays from the sun cascaded on the blue sea, creating a breathtaking view.

Natalie stood on the soft sandy beach barefooted as she stretched out her arms to feel the breeze. "Samuel, the sea is mesmerizing! I can get everything out of my mind just by staring at it! After I have done everything and things are back to normal, I plan to lead a secluded life on an island."

Samuel stroked her lustrous hair affectionately. "I'll accompany you by then."

"Okay!" she replied with a bright smile.

Although they were still clueless about the mysterious mastermind, the vision of a beautiful life on an island boosted their confidence.

"Samuel, do you still remember what you said last night?"

"Yes." He squinted his eyes as he looked intently into hers.

"You said that you wouldn't live by yourself if I happen to meet my end at any moment," she mumbled sorrowfully.

"Mm-hmm."

"Promise me. If it really happens, you must pull yourself together and continue to live without me. I don't believe in reincarnation, but it's possible for us to meet again if we manage to survive." Natalie uttered languorously as if she was commenting on the weather.

"Nat..." Samuel tried to refute.

"Do I have your word?" Natalie asked solemnly.

"No, I can't promise you!"

Natalie stood on her toes to stare into his eyes adamantly. "Promise me! Samuel, I want you to promise me!"

She was not wearing the hyper-realistic mask while alone with him at the beach. She wanted to face him with her true self.

Her flawless porcelain skin was glowing under the sunlight. There was an unmistakable hint of perseverance amid tenaciousness in her beautiful eyes.

Samuel had never come across any woman as stubborn as her.

Eventually, he had no choice but to give in. "All right. I promise."

A smile broke out on her face the moment she heard his words.

Samuel could barely take his eyes off the captivating bright smile on her face. He knew it would be one of the most unforgettable moments for the rest of his life.

In the meantime, Thomas was observing a new batch of test subjects held captive in the cage at the research center of Dexmed Pharmaceutical with a frigid expression.

Chapter 605 Insist On Waiting For Him

Dressed in tattered clothes, all of them had their hands and legs cuffed.

Cayden Yeager, Thomas's assistant, updated him, "There are twelve test subjects in this batch, and they are all vagrants. No one will ever notice their disappearance."

After flipping through a few pages of the reports from Cayden, he instructed, "Proceed to kick start with the experiment. Divide them into three groups, then record the dosage of their injections and their body reactions daily. I want a reliable test result of YF-28 as soon as possible."

"Noted, Mr. Nichols," Cayden replied respectfully and relayed his message to the researchers in the lab.

When Thomas walked past the cage, all the vagrants fastened their gazes on him. Nonetheless, his emotion was not the slightest bit swayed by the indescribable fury, fear, and uneasiness in their eyes.

Devoid of expression, he scrutinized the so-called test subjects in the cage as though they were merely rats captured for the experiment.

Thomas stepped out of the research center and was about to leave in his Rolls-Royce when he spotted a familiar figure in front of his car.

His eyes widened in utter disbelief as he stuttered, "Yara? W-Why are you here?"

The latter's lips contorted into a smirk. "Dad, I'm your daughter. Since you can be here, why can't I show up? After all, I've found out about your deal with King. I know you're carrying out experiments for him and doing research for a specialty drug!"

Thunderstruck, Thomas stammered, "Yara... how did you..."

Yara cut him off by putting on a sly smile. "Dad, since I'm your only daughter now, don't you think we shouldn't keep mum from each other about anything? I'm not solely wishing for Dexmed Pharmaceutical to continue flourishing. I love Samuel from the bottom of my heart, so I surely won't let my effort for these five years go down the drain. It's just a matter of time before I become Mrs. Samuel Bowers. Just sit back and wait for it."

"Yara, you still haven't given him up?"

"Give him up? Why should I? Dad, the Bowers family is one of the most influential families not only in Dellmoor but also in Chanaea. If I'm married to Samuel, you'll be his father-in-law. Isn't that something fabulous? By then, everyone will surely look up to you. You can't talk me into giving up."

Thomas was flushed with excitement by her words. "Yara, are you confident about that?"

"Dad, since I'm able to have a grasp of the situation at the lab, you should trust my ability. I was defeated badly due to my recklessness. From now on, I'll assist you in eliminating the threats from Dream Corporation. Apart from that, I'll snatch Samuel back from that woman!" Yara reassured him with a glint of petrifying ferocity in her eyes.

Thomas' greed for social status was a bottomless pit. He was utterly ambitious as Yara's words whipped him up.

"All right. I'll back you up!" He nodded approvingly.

"Dad, you can rely on me. I won't let you down!"

Samuel and Natalie were back to work after their trip to the beach.

When she reached the main entrance of Dream Corporation, a figure caught her eye. A young girl dressed in a white blouse and a blue pleated skirt was sitting motionlessly like a statue with a piece of luggage by her side.

Somehow, Natalie felt the young girl looked familiar.

"Amelia?" she called out instinctively as she approached her.

"Natalie!" The latter darted toward her excitedly.

"Ah! Aren't you at Loang? Why did you come to Chanaea all of a sudden?"

On the brink of tears, Amelia Synder choked up. "I've been trying to get in touch with Yandel to no avail. Whenever I change my phone number, he'll block me. I miss him so much! That's why I transferred to a university here. I know he works here, but the security guard doesn't allow me to enter without an appointment. Thus, I've no choice but to wait for him here. Sooner or later, I believe I'll get to see him when he walks past."

Chapter 606 Only You Can Help Me

Natalie looked into her eyes and asked tactfully, "Are your parents aware of your transfer here?"

"Yes." "Amelia, don't lie to me."

After pondering for a while, Amelia bit her lips hesitantly before pouring out to the former. "They're oblivious to it as I only told them it's a short-term student exchange program. I mustn't let them know that I'm here to look for Yandel. If they find out the truth, I bet I won't be able to step out of Loang anymore. Natalie, you must keep it under wraps for me. I haven't seen Yandel for ages, and I miss him so much..."

As Chairman of Dream Corporation, it was actually easy as a pie for Natalie to help Amelia meet up with Yandel.

Nonetheless, she was worried that he might not be pleased to see Amelia.

Hence, she pointed out placidly, hoping to enlighten the young girl about the current circumstance. "Amelia, have you ever thought about why he keeps blocking your number? Maybe he doesn't have the courage to come face to face with you. Since he adopted you when you were young, you should know him better than me. Don't you know that he's just putting on a show leading a promiscuous life? As a strong-willed man, nobody can change his stance once he has made up his mind."

In an instant, Amelia cast her eyes down and was rendered speechless. Moments later, she started mumbling gradually. "Natalie, do you know that I've been in love with him for thirteen years? Ever since he brought me out of the orphanage, I've fallen for him..."

Natalie remained silent, lending an ear to Amelia as she poured out her heart.

"Yandel has been doting on me during those years. I thought we'd continue to be together even after I've grown up. However, he changed ever since my parents came and looked for me. He started to treat me coldly and refused to spare me any glance. I kept asking him about his sudden change, but he was reluctant to tell me anything. Not long after that, he left Loang. As I was still young, I talked myself into focusing on my studies. I understood that there was nothing much I could do before I grew up, but I've already turned nineteen this year. I came all the way from Loang to look for him yet, I can't seem to have any chance to see him..." Amelia broke into tears, unable to stifle the waves of sorrow crushing her heart.

Natalie's heart wrenched at the sight of her tears.

Even so, she had promised Yandel earlier she would not mention a single word to Amelia. She knew too well that he had no choice.

"Amelia, have you ever thought that Yandel might still treat you coldly and even hurt you with oppressive mockery when you meet him again?" Natalie had to get a grip of herself to hint to Amelia, although she knew it might sound insensitive to give the latter another blow. She hoped the young girl could at least foresee the disappointing moment if she insisted on meeting Yandel.

"Not at all. I give no hoots to how he'll react later. I only know that I miss him so much! Most importantly, I wish to spend every moment with him just like when I was young," Amelia replied resolutely, tears flowing down her cheeks like streams.

"Do you mean to say that you don't care about the consequence as long as you can be with him again?"

Amelia nodded in sheer determination. "Yes! Yandel is the one! I'm convinced I've found the very person whom I wish to spend the rest of my life with. I don't wish to let any chance slip away again."

Natalie did not have the heart to see Amelia shedding tears again.

Not to mention, she had a fancy for the young girl when she was in Loang previously. In fact, she was rather down in the dumps after knowing what happened between Yandel and Amelia.

Deep down, she knew it was inappropriate for her to meddle in others' love life. Even so, she still wished the best for the duo. Hmph! Instead of giving Amelia a chance, I should say I'm giving Yandel a chance to be true to himself!

Stroking Amelia's cheeks gently, she consoled her, "Poor girl, stop crying. I'm sure you'll get to meet him soon!"

"Hmm," Amelia replied briefly, still sobbing.

Shortly after, Natalie stepped into the building and took the VIP elevator to head straight for her office on the top floor.

"Boss, I've something important to update you!" Yandel called out the moment she came into view.

"Just a minute." Natalie threw him a glance and said wittingly, "Ah! I guess I've dropped my flash drive somewhere at the main entrance."

"Oh! I'll assign my assistant to help you..."

"Yandel, this is a highly important flash drive." She looked straight into his eyes and enunciated, "Don't ask anyone to help you. You must be the one to help me with that."

Chapter 607 Get Out Of My Way

Yandel hesitated. "Oh! You're reluctant?" Natalie arched her brows.

"Not at all. Since this flash drive is important for you, I'll go down to retrieve it now," Yandel reassured her.

"Thanks. Sorry for troubling you."

Gazing at the man who stepped out of the office hastily, Natalie's lips curved into a smile as she tapped the tips of her fingers rhythmically on the desk.

Yandel, despite how harsh your words are, I bet your heart can't resist leaping with joy when she comes into sight!

Soon, Yandel took the VIP elevator to the ground floor.

When he stepped out of the elevator, all the staff at the front counter could barely believe what came into view and started babbling.

"My goodness! It's our CEO! He usually comes and goes with his car parked in the basement. What makes him drop by the main entrance all of a sudden?"

"How do I know, huh?"

"That's not the main point! Don't let the chance to drool over the eye candy slip away! Good gracious! Our CEO is so good-looking!"

"Our CEO is undoubtedly an outstanding man! He has been focusing on his career, and there aren't any rumors about his love affairs so far!"

After stepping out of the building, Yandel lowered his head all the time while trying to locate the flash drive as mentioned by Natalie.

In the blink of an eye, a figure dashed toward him.

"Yandel, I miss you so much!" Amelia felt a prickle of joy and burst into tears.

Yandel stiffened when the girl suddenly wrapped her arms around him. He could not help but catch his breath as he smelt a light whiff of rose scent.

"Finally, I get to see you!" Amelia yelled in exhilaration.

When Yandel regained his composure, he realized they had not seen each other for three years. The young girl in his memory seemed to have transformed into a mature young lady. There might have been other changes in her over the past three years.

However, he shrugged her off nonchalantly. "Why are you here? How could you wrap your arms around me?"

Amelia's eyes darkened the moment Yandel shoved her away. Nevertheless, there were still glimmers of light in her eyes when she fastened her gaze at him.

She smiled bitterly. "When I was young, didn't you tell me I could do anything I wanted when I grew up? Now that I've grown up, I wish to be by your side. That's why I'm here! Yandel, how about we start all over again?"

"Hmph! Don't you feel that it's kind of childish? Even you yourself can't deny that I told you that when you were young!"

"No, I don't feel so. I really mean it," Amelia retorted.

"But it's childish to me! Do you need me to repeat what I said three years ago?"

At the sight of her biting her lips in silence, he continued to mock. "So, you've forgotten about it? It's all right. I'll refresh your memory."

He sounded placid as ever, but he was trying to bottle up his emotions inwardly till there were bulging veins on his tightly clenched fists.

Yandel would rather cut ties with Amelia so she would not pin any hope on him again. To him, it was pointless dragging on with wishful thinking for something that could never turn into reality.

"Amelia Synder, please get out of my way! Never show up in front of me again!" Yandel snapped at her and turned to stride off grimly without throwing her a sideways glance.

Gazing at his retreating figure, Amelia stood rooted to the spot.

She had actually foreseen this scene. Hence, she had told herself to be prepared for the disappointing moment long ago. But why did my heart still ache so much because of his words?

Tears trickled down her cheeks again as her eyes were gradually shut.

In the meantime, Natalie was gazing at Yandel, who was back in the CEO's office, with a glint of subtleness in her eyes.

"Did you find my flash drive?" she asked meaningfully.

"You know that she's waiting downstairs, don't you? That's why you assigned me to go down and look for your so-called flash drive?" Yandel smiled bitterly.

Natalie let out a deep sigh. "Amelia has no choice but to wait for you at the entrance because you've been blocking her number. I bet she won't easily leave without seeing you. It's been three years. Be frank with me. Don't you miss her, by any chance?"

Chapter 608 Not Deserving Of Sympathy

Yandel clenched his fists in silence.

After a long while, he gradually looked up and remarked, "So what if we see each other? It's as good as we don't. She's someone beyond my reach."

Natalie didn't know how to judge who was right. She only knew that Yandel had raised Amelia till she was sixteen when the girl's family came knocking. From then on, he drew a line between both of them.

Even though Amelia had repeatedly asked Yandel about the reason, he was adamant in refusing to tell her.

After some time, he left everything he had in Loang and worked with Natalie to establish Dream.

Over the last three years, Natalie worked behind the scenes while he was the face of the company. Although he seemed to appear lackadaisical at work, he was actually numbing himself with a high-intensity schedule.

It was a fact that wasn't lost on Natalie.

Yandel eased the tension in his fists in the end. "No one in this world loves her more than I do. However, I'm not worthy of her."

Natalie wanted to probe further, but she swallowed her words when she saw tears welling up in Yandel's eyes.

She was used to seeing him behave in a nonchalant manner, and that moment was also the first time she saw him shed tears.

For the rest of the day, a sullen mood filled the CEO's office as Yandel continued to bury himself in work to help suppress his raging emotions.

As for Natalie, she too, busied herself and left the office when she was done.

The moment she stepped out, she noticed it was raining, and she didn't have an umbrella.

Just as she covered herself with her own hands and began to run, an umbrella opened right above her head.

Raising her gaze, Samuel's reprimanding expression greeted her.

"Aren't you worried about getting a cold?" he asked.

"It's not a big deal. Getting caught in the rain doesn't necessarily end with a cold," Natalie mumbled as she put down her hands. When she subsequently saw the look Samuel gave her, she changed topics at once. "By the way, why are you here at my office?"

"I knew you didn't bring your umbrella and would get yourself wet," Samuel answered. "Even if you don't care for yourself, it still breaks my heart to see you sick."

She was slightly surprised at how Samuel predicted it.

Both of them walked side by side amidst the pitter-patter of the rain.

As Samuel was mostly sheltering Natalie with the umbrella, he had exposed himself to the rain. Nonetheless, he didn't mind the raindrops trickling down his jacket as long as she didn't get wet.

At that moment, Thomas brought Yara to visit the secret research center.

It was built underground and contained three stories where each floor had a different function.

The high-precision machines at work inside had exceeded her expectations.

However, she was shocked by the sight of vagrants who were in shackles, groaning in their cages.

"Yara, are you frightened by them?" Thomas asked with a frown.

"A little." She nodded with a pale look on her face.

"After the drugs are tested on animals, they have to be tested on humans." Staring heartlessly at the prison in front of him, Thomas continued to explain, "This is where the true research is conducted. All kinds of medicine regardless of their side effects are tested here before being released to the outside world."

Yara nodded despite the questions she still harbored.

Nonetheless, she quickly regained her composure and broke into a devious smile.

Only the fittest will survive in this world. Society's rules have expelled all these people. Hence, they don't deserve any sympathy at all. Only the strong deserve the privilege of living on, just like Natalie and I. Even though we are twins, I will be the only one that's left standing.

Chapter 609 A Rampage

"Ouch!" Just when Natalie was peeling an apple for the children, she accidentally cut her fingertip, causing blood to ooze out.

For some unknown reason, she felt a sense of dread flooding into her to the extent of not realizing that she was bleeding.

Only when her blood started dripping onto the floor did she regain her senses and stopped the bleeding with a paper towel.

After she was done peeling the apple, Natalie brought it out from the kitchen with a smile. "Kids, come and have some apples."

Even though the four of them were talented in their own right, they were still only five years old. Hence, they preferred eating ice cream and fries over fruits and vegetables.

When Gavin or the other housekeepers served them fruits, they would always find a reason to refuse.

Nevertheless, they surrounded Natalie as she was the one who prepared the apple.

Samuel was also sitting beside them, munching casually on his apple.

Franklin grinned. "Daddy, don't you hate apples the most?"

Sophia nodded. "That's right. I remember you saying that you avoid apples because of their strange taste."

In response, Natalie stared curiously at Samuel who looked like he was enjoying the fruit. How is that possible? He doesn't look like he hates it at all.

"Samuel, do you really hate apples?" Natalie inquired.

"I do, but not the ones peeled by you." His eyes sparkled. "Because of you, my hatred for them has turned into love."

Just as he spoke, the children turned toward their mother with widened eyes as they watched her cheeks flush red.

After being embarrassed in front of the children, Natalie shot Samuel with a coy glare.

"Mommy, you're blushing!" Clayton caused her embarrassment to intensify.

"Clayton." Natalie stuffed a piece of apple into his mouth with a fork. "Even the apple isn't enough to shut your mouth."

As for the other three children, all of them giggled knowingly.

Once they finished their apple, the children went upstairs and busied themselves with their respective hobbies.

Franklin read financial books; Sophia studied those related to medicine; Xavian skimmed IT journals; and Clayton engrossed himself in literature.

When Natalie saw all of them delving into such serious topics, she couldn't help but sigh.

Parents usually worried that their children were falling behind in terms of learning. But for Natalie, her concern was that they would miss out on their childhood.

After leaving the children's room, she returned to her bedroom.

The moment she entered, Samuel gently caught her wrist.

"Hmm?" Natalie was caught by surprise.

"How did you hurt yourself from peeling apples?" Samuel gave her a look. "In the eyes of everyone else, you're a wise and fearless leader. But in front of me, you're just like a bumbling fool that doesn't know how to avoid the rain or even peel an apple."

"Who're you talking about? I'm not a fool," she retorted.

"Are you not?" He furrowed his brows and turned her hand over to reveal her cut fingertip. "Don't think that I didn't notice you hurting yourself."

"You saw it from the beginning?"

"Mm-hmm."

Nodding, Samuel pulled Natalie to the bedside and got her to sit down.

Next, he brought out a first aid kit from the cupboard. After applying some antiseptic to her wound, he patched it up with an adhesive gauze.

Meanwhile, Natalie was filled with an indescribable warmth as she watched him treat her wound while half-kneeling on the ground.

At that distance, his black obsidian eyes caused her heart to skip a beat before pounding furiously.

Chapter 610 Loving Each Other

Natalie licked her lips naughtily; Samuel took it as an implicit invitation when he caught a glimpse from the corner of his eye.

"Do you want it?" he asked with a mischievous glint in his eye.

Averting her gaze to hide the fact that her heart was fluttering, Natalie nodded by reflex even though she didn't hear what he said.

The moment Samuel released her finger, she felt a sudden force from behind her neck.

Before she could react, his breath enveloped her as he planted his lips on hers.

Ever since Kenneth played chess with Natalie, his relationship with the children had gradually improved.

When he was informed that they were coming for a visit, he cracked out a vibrant smile.

As the housekeepers prepared the children's favorite snacks and ice cream, Kenneth changed himself into something proper and even combed his white hair neatly.

"Great-grandpa."

"Great-grandpa."

Franklin and Sophia rushed up to him excitedly and hugged his legs.

"There, there, kids. All of you are so well-behaved." Kenneth's heart melted when he saw their reactions.

"Grandpa."

"Grandpa."

Clayton and Xavian had fallen behind Franklin and Sophia. When Kenneth finally saw them, they greeted him respectfully.

"Grandpa?" Kenneth commented in a gentle tone, "Xavian, Clayton, both of you are the same age as Franklin and Sophia. Since they address me as Great-grandpa, both of you should do the same."

Having heard Kenneth's words, both of them amended their greetings.

"Great-grandpa."

"Great-grandpa."

"All right, all right."

Kenneth was ecstatic after hearing the children's greetings.

With their exquisite features, they looked so adorable that he was enamored with them. In fact, he wished he simply had more than two hands so that he could hug all of them at once.

When the butler saw how Kenneth reacted to the children, he rubbed his eyes in disbelief.

Even though only Franklin and Sophia were related to Kenneth by blood, the four of them together could be easily mistaken to have been born from the same parents.

"What are you spacing out for?" Kenneth glared at Jefford. "Serve these babies of mine their cake."

"Right away!"

Jefford cut the cake at once and distributed the slices to the children.

The three boys quickly wolfed down their cake while Sophia consumed it at a slower pace. As she anxiously devoured the cake, her face was soon covered in cream.

Just when Kenneth wanted to help her wipe the cream off, her brothers were already one step ahead.

Sophia giggled as she allowed her brothers to help her.

"Sophia, if that isn't enough for you, I'll give you half of mine."

"Sophia, slow down. Xavian and I will eat slower too."

"Clayton is right. You should eat slower."

Sophia nodded adorably as she giggled in embarrassment. "Thank you, guys."

When Kenneth saw how much the children loved one another, he suddenly felt that Natalie was a lot more capable than he thought. Not only did she teach Franklin and Sophia well but also made sure the children got along with one another.

Stroking his beard, Kenneth asked, "How has your mommy been recently?"