

Happiness 731

Chapter 731 Far From Being Fully Satisfied

Natalie wanted to escape, but his kisses were so urgent and passionate that she had no way of avoiding them. There was a brief moment when they broke away, giving her the chance to escape. However, he was only giving her a moment to catch her breath. It was not long before he continued kissing her, robbing her of her breath again.

That night, there was no rest for either of them.

By the end of it, she was exhausted and felt like she was in a daze. We did it more than twice, but he doesn't seem the least bit tired! On the contrary, he seems to be getting more and more addicted to it!

Meanwhile, Samuel was oblivious to the thoughts running through Natalie's mind as he gently stroked her black hair. In truth, his thoughts were the complete opposite of hers. He was far from being fully satisfied!

It seems as if my desire for her is only growing by the day. I feel like I'm losing control when I'm in this state, yet the feeling is utterly addictive. It makes me want to love her even more. What should I do?

He had never felt that way with any other woman, and the woman who made him go crazy for her was not able to keep up physically. In the end, he could only sigh as he hugged Natalie close to him, reining in the insatiable desire within him and forcing himself to calm down.

While they shared a hot and passionate night, things were strained and awkward for Yara and Thomas over at the hospital as they were in the middle of a fierce argument.

Yara flung a bottle of saline onto the floor. The bottle shattered, splashing the liquid everywhere.

Glaring at Thomas in rage, Yara demanded furiously, "Where did those voice recordings come from?"

"I don't know! I really have no idea!" Thomas wailed, covering his ashen face miserably. "I've thought about it long and hard, but I still can't figure out how those recordings could've come about! I'm not good at many things, but I'm not so dumb as to let someone get their hands on something that could be used against us."

"You don't know? You don't know anything! And yet you dare to come and ask me!"

Yara was infuriated. I thought the press conference would deliver Natalie a crushing blow, but the plan backfired in my face, and I was the one who wound up losing! If not for those voice recordings, everything would've gone according to my plan!

She clutched the quilt on the hospital bed tightly, digging her nails so deep into it that she left five scratch marks on it.

Inadvertently, she caught sight of the expensive Patek Philippe watch on Thomas' wrist.

"That watch... Did you just buy it?" Yara asked hoarsely.

Thomas' expression froze as he clutched the watch, and he did not say anything for a long time.

“Look at the situation we’re in! Are you still going to keep things from me at a time like this?” Yara demanded icily. Thomas could hardly breathe when he saw the cold and ruthless look in her eyes.

“I...” His mouth opened and closed a few times. Finally, he revealed, “Yeva gave it to me.”

“Your mistress?” Yara fixed her gaze on the watch and added, “We’ll soon find out whether there’s anything wrong with the watch once we get someone to check it.”

As morning dawned, Yara headed to the apartment where Yeva lived with the Patek Philippe watch in her hand.

Yeva was soon rudely awakened by the sound of the doorbell ringing incessantly. She was already starting to show a little, and she put her hands over her baby bump as she climbed out of bed. At the same time, she could not help grumbling, “It’s not even light out yet! What’s with the ruckus? That’s not the sound of someone ringing the doorbell. It sounds more like they’re trying to summon the dead!”

She descended the stairs to the first floor and walked to the front door. When she opened the door, she saw Yara standing in front of her, wearing a flaming red dress.

The latter had also applied heavy makeup to her delicate features, concealing her tear-stained face and dark circles. It made her look much more mature and gave her a domineering air.

Yeva was Thomas’ mistress, so she knew about Yara.

She looked at Yara in surprise and stammered, “Yara... H-How did you—”

But before she could finish her sentence, Yara raised her hand and slapped Yeva hard across her face. The sound rang out in the air, crisp and clear.

Slap!

Yara struck Yeva so hard that the latter nearly stumbled.

Holding a hand up to her burning cheek, Yeva felt her anger flare within her. “Since you knew how to find me, you must also know about my relationship with your father. I’m going to be your stepmother in the future!”

Chapter 732 If You Have Any Compassion

Yeva was no great beauty, but she was still quite young. In fact, she was not much older than Yara. For a young lady like her to stay by Thomas’ side willingly, it was naturally because of his money.

Being kept as a mistress here is only temporary. My ultimate goal is to become Thomas’ lawfully wedded wife. That way, I’ll also have control over half of the Nichols family’s assets by law.

“My stepmother? You?” Yara sneered, shaking the hand she had used to slap Yeva as if she had just touched something dirty.

“Don’t underestimate me, Yara.” Yeva deliberately showed off her baby bump and declared smugly, “I’m pregnant with your father’s baby. What good is a daughter? In the end, your father will still pass on his assets to this child in my belly. You’d do well to speak to me politely. Otherwise, once I marry into the Nichols family, you’ll—”

Halfway through her threat, she got slapped hard by Yara once again.

Furious, Yeva roared angrily, "Why you... Do you really think I don't have any way of dealing with you?"

"All right, then. Let's see what you've got," Yara retorted, arching her eyebrows tauntingly.

Yeva quickly took out her phone and called Thomas in front of Yara.

Soon, she heard a phone ringing, and it was coming from outside the house. Is Thomas here? So, it wasn't Yara who discovered this place on her own. Thomas was the one who brought her here! And he stood on the sidelines and did nothing as she slapped me!

"Thomas... I know you're outside! I can't believe you didn't do anything when your daughter slapped me!" Yeva shrieked.

Tossing the Patek Philippe watch at Yeva's feet, Yara asked, "Did you give him this watch as a gift? It has a monitoring device. Spit it out. Who told you to do that?"

Yeva tensed as soon as she heard that there was a monitoring device inside the watch. "I don't know..."

"Are you refusing to tell the truth?"

Yeva raised her voice as she said agitatedly, "I told you, I don't know! I was in a dessert store, and one of the other customers left it behind. I noticed that it was the real deal, so I..."

Her voice trailed off as she spoke until she finally fell silent.

"So you took this watch that you didn't even know whom it belonged to and where it came from, then gave it to Dad? And what did you get in return? A few million?" Yara shot daggers at Yeva as her loathing toward Yeva reached a boiling point.

I can't believe that this woman would stoop so low! Because of her, all my carefully laid-out plans went down the drain!

Yara stalked over to Yeva and grabbed her tightly around her neck, causing the latter to pant for breath.

"Let... Let go of me... I can't breathe!" Yeva choked out, her eyes widening in fear.

Yara's eyes flashed menacingly, her gaze full of malice. She snarled, "You foiled my plans, yet you still dare to daydream about marrying into the Nichols family? Go to hell!"

Yara did not strangle Yeva but gave the latter a hard shove instead.

Caught off guard, Yeva fell to the floor, and she felt a sharp pang shoot through her belly. Her face was deathly pale as she groaned, "M-My stomach... It hurts so much... My baby..."

However, Yara looked down at her without the faintest hint of pity.

"Tsk tsK tsK... Are you feeling scared now?"

As Yeva gazed up at the beautiful but vicious Yara, she was so frightened that she retreated some distance away with despair in her eyes.

“Thomas, save me! It really hurts! I’m carrying our child... He’s your son!” Yeva’s voice broke as she screamed out loudly, desperately hoping there was still a shred of compassion within Thomas and that he would rush over to save her.

“Him?”

Yara shoved Yeva again, causing blood to start running down the latter’s legs.

Although I intended to use the baby as a bargaining chip, he’s still my own flesh and blood. I can’t just sit back and do nothing! Panicking, Yeva wailed, “The baby... The baby... Yara, if you still have some compassion in you, save the baby! He’s dying! Hurry up and save the baby!”

Chapter 733 Willing To Continue Acting Childish

Yeva was in so much pain that she could not get up. All she could do was cradle her stomach and writhe on the floor in agony.

Even so, Yara merely turned and walked out of the apartment, ignoring the crimson blood on the floor.

Thomas, who stood outside the door, had heard Yeva’s heart-wrenching cries. When he saw Yara walking out, he pressed his lips together and said hesitantly, “Yara, that baby is still your little brother... Don’t you...”

Yara blinked at him a few times, then said frostily, “If you had told me about this whole mess earlier, I could’ve turned a blind eye and allowed you to bring her and the child back home. I wouldn’t have uttered a single word of protest. But now, everything is ruined because of her... Do you think she still deserves to be a part of our family? If King learns about the foolish things she has done, he’ll surely take out his anger on her. If you get involved, do you think... you can withstand King’s wrath?”

Her words were enough to silence Thomas and make him forgo any intention of saving Yeva.

“Let’s leave.” Thomas began walking away with heavy footsteps, seeming to have aged ten years after what just happened.

Yara’s lips curved into a faint sneer as she watched Thomas walk away. So what if that’s his baby? So what if she’s his mistress? Dad is a selfish man. He may look kind and gentle, but he’s rotten to the core. When the chips are down, he’ll cast them aside without a second thought.

“Thomas! You son of a b*tch! You don’t have to save me, but please... save your child!” Yeva screamed, her voice hoarse from the excruciating pain.

Alas...

Thomas had already walked quite a distance away. No matter how desperate her pleas were, they were not enough to make the cowardly man turn back.

Yeva gazed at the blood-stained floor, then gathered all her strength to reach for her phone that had slipped under a corner of the couch. However, every inch she moved seemed to require all of her strength.

However, when she was only a few centimeters away, she could not move any further.

She could feel that she had lost a lot of blood. The more blood she lost, the more her body temperature dropped. Eventually, she felt the baby stop moving.

Despair overwhelmed her, and she felt as though her tears were running dry.

My feelings for Thomas were just an act, a bit of fun. However, my love for this baby is real! The gods must've seen all the shameful things I have done these past few years. That's why they're making me suffer such retribution! My baby... My baby is gone!

Meanwhile, Natalie stirred and woke up to find herself in Samuel's arms.

She only realized how tightly he had wrapped his arm around her waist after she awoke. She fidgeted a little, waking him from his slumber too.

"You... seem to be holding me a little too tightly, don't you think?" she hinted, her red lips parting slightly as she spoke.

Hearing that, he grunted softly. However, he pulled her back into his arms and murmured, "I was afraid you'd escape."

"W-Why would I escape?"

"Well, who was the one who abandoned me along the river?" he whispered in her ear, his magnetic voice sounding a little raspy since he had just woken up.

His words were as immature as that of a child. However, the deep timbre of his voice and the heat from his broad chest were a reminder that he was a full-grown man and one that oozed masculinity at that.

Natalie could feel her cheeks burning and her heart pounding wildly.

She bit her lip and said, "I just... thought it'd be better for us to be apart temporarily. I already explained my reasons for doing so, so don't tell me you're going to act all childish like a three-year-old kid."

She thought saying that would deter him from pressing on the matter. However, his reply surprised her.

Tenderly nudging the tip of her nose with his, he said in a low voice, "If acting childish can keep you by my side, I'm willing to continue doing so."

His words were like a pebble dropping into a lake, causing a ripple effect and playing further havoc with her emotions.

She shot him a glare and demanded, "Samuel Bowers, where did you learn to say such mushy remarks?"

Chapter 734 An Insatiable Wolf

"There's no need to learn."

"Hmm?" Natalie cocked a brow curiously.

"Everything just comes naturally with you." Samuel's naughty hands began sliding down.

"It's already morning." Natalie was blushing so hard that she looked like an alluring peach. "Shall we get out of bed? There's still a lot to do in the day. We would be overdoing it if we continued."

In spite of that, Samuel didn't budge at all while his hands continued to cause mischief.

It was hard to imagine how someone who was so disciplined in his abstinence could turn into a wild beast in bed.

"I haven't had enough from last night."

"W-Why are you behaving this way?" Natalie grumbled.

With a longing expression, Samuel replied to her with a kiss instead. As they tip-toed along the threshold of their passion, lust gradually got the better of them again.

By the time both of them were awake again, Natalie's body was covered with bruises left by Samuel.

Evidently, he had become an insatiable beast the moment he was released from his cage. There was no rest for her until he had his fill.

In contrast to Samuel's refreshed state, Natalie could feel her body aching all over as she gradually got out of bed.

"Why don't you take the day off today?" Samuel gave Natalie a sympathetic peck on her forehead.

However, after climbing out of bed, Natalie remembered that she had a lot to do that day. Hence, she declined, "I can't stay at home today. I still need to drop by Dream."

Cognizant that there was no changing Natalie's mind, Samuel didn't press the matter. Instead, he stroked her cheeks and acknowledged, "Sure."

At Dream Corporation, Natalie had arrived outside the CEO's office. The moment she opened the door, she was startled by a loud bang, followed by confetti falling all over her head.

"This..."

In front of her were Yandel, Lia, Ross, and the others, smiling vibrantly at her.

Realizing that they were celebrating on behalf of her and Dream, Natalie cracked a slight smile. "Thank you, all."

In contrast to the grim atmosphere previously, everyone felt a lot less tense and was in high spirits just like before. After all, Dream had beaten Dexmed Pharmaceutical thoroughly in their recent tussle. The latter probably never imagined that they would lose so badly in the final stage.

"Boss, you're amazing! Even I assumed this was the end for Dream and didn't expect such a surprising turnaround to happen!" Yandel exclaimed candidly as he threw Natalie a gaze full of admiration.

"Stop your flattery."

After sweeping her eyes across the crowd, Natalie remarked in a grateful tone, "If it weren't for all of you, I wouldn't have been able to do this. Therefore, I will triple your bonus this year as your reward."

Even though Yandel and the rest weren't unconditionally loyal to Natalie for the money or the shares, they were still extremely appreciative of the reward.

After everyone took their seats, they began to report their work progress.

At the same time, Dream Pharmaceutical's online reputation took a turn for the better.

The patients who were previously cowed by the trolls began to use the opportunity to express their gratitude to Dream for formulating the special cancer drug.

AskingGodForFiveMoreYears: The drug that my doctor prescribed me initially cost two hundred thousand. However, Dream's drug not only costs two to three thousand but is also more effective than my previous medication. Given how noble the company is, can those paid trolls think from the patients' perspective for once?

PeacelsHappiness: After my son took the drug, his doctor told me that the cancer cells finally stopped spreading. Hence, I'm truly... truly grateful.

BabyMom: My child is only five years old and suffered significant side effects from the previous medication. But with Dream's drug, her appetite has increased, while her face looks a lot chubbier now. Please keep my comment at the top, as the drug has become her hope for survival!

There were many other similar comments that were gut-wrenching, and one could easily tear up from reading them.

After Natalie had gone through the comments, her eyes glistened with warmth.

Benefiting the populace with their medical knowledge had always been her granddad's lifelong dream. It was the same reason that drove Natalie to establish Dream.

Chapter 735 Punishment For Failure

Not only was the public impressed with her, but they also admired her choice to continue producing and selling the special medicine under dire circumstances.

Given that everyone had no confidence in Dream back then, halting sales would have been the best option. However, when she considered the consequences the drug consumers would face, she forced herself to get the better of Dexmed Pharmaceutical by exploiting their weakness.

After they had discussed what the next steps were, Ross and Lia left, leaving only Natalie and Yandel in the office.

Since they were alone, Yandel spoke candidly, "Boss, I just received news during the meeting that Yeva met a terrible accident. She fell down and lost a lot of blood. Not only did she lose her baby, but her womb was also removed. She is currently in a coma and still in critical condition."

As she sipped her coffee, Natalie's gaze turned grim.

"Thomas couldn't be any more selfish. Regardless of Yeva's character, the child still belonged to him. To have done such a thing to her, I'm afraid he has implicitly acknowledged..."

Even though she was mentally prepared for Thomas to do something drastic, she didn't expect him to. This man has set a new low for his selfishness. How could he even kill his own child!

"Looks like that's the end of the relationship."

“What about Yeva?”

“It’s now in the hands of fate.” Natalie put down her coffee. “If she doesn’t survive, it only means that she has paid the price for the choices she made. As for me, I’m not in any way obligated to save her.”

“I understand.” Yandel nodded.

“By the way, you had better prepare yourself,” Natalie remarked.

“Hmm?”

“Whatever Dexmed Pharmaceutical did to us, don’t you think it’s time to return the favor?”

“Boss, do you mean...”

As Natalie fluttered her eyelashes, her crystal-like eyes glistened with mischief. “Let’s strike while the iron is hot!”

Meanwhile, at the Nichols residence, Thomas and Yara received a call from King.

Cognizant of who was on the line, neither of them dared to pick up.

After struggling between themselves, Yara was pushed by Thomas toward the phone. With her finger trembling violently, she pressed the button to put King on speaker.

Even though she wasn’t aware of King’s true identity, she knew that he was someone extremely powerful in Chanaea to be able to finance the underground research center her father built.

Given their failure to take over Dream and the backlash Dexmed Pharmaceutical received from the turn of public opinion, King would definitely not let them off easily.

“Why did you take so long to answer my call?” King’s mechanical voice rang out from the phone.

“We just heard it,” Yara replied in a trembling voice as she tried to suppress the fear in her. “I’m sorry.”

“I don’t need your apology.” King’s voice turned grim. “Instead, I need someone to take responsibility for the matter and pay the equivalent price.”

Yara’s and Thomas’ expressions changed drastically upon hearing his words.

At that moment, a loud creak was heard. Gale pushed open the door to the Nichols residence and entered the house.

“Gale, how did you...”

Staring at Gale making his entrance, Yara couldn’t believe her eyes. Even though the mansion’s door was closed and there were servants standing guard in the yard, Gale still managed to slip in unobstructed.

Meanwhile, Gale was on a call using his Bluetooth earpiece. “King, I have found the father and daughter. I’m here to make them pay the price of their failure.”

Thomas was so terrified that his knees buckled. “Mr. Gale, please don’t. I’m sure we can talk about this.”

Gale sniggered. "Mr. Nichols, you have served King longer than I have. Hence, I'm sure you know better than me what the punishment for failure is?"

Chapter 736 A Terrifying Punishment

It was as Gale had said, Thomas knew full well how cruel King were toward those who failed him.

Trembling in fear, Thomas shook his head vehemently. "Mr. Gale, don't, please don't. I'm sure the years I spent working for King must at least mean something. I beg of you. Please let the matter slide just this once."

Yara, too, was terrified by the scene.

In contrast to the father and daughter, Gale had a bloodthirsty look in his eyes. As he strode up to Thomas, he grabbed the latter's left hand and pinned it on the table. Subsequently, he pulled out an electric knife from his shoe.

With a flip of a switch, the blade of the electric knife began to spin.

"Mr. Gale, no, please don't." By then, Thomas' face had lost all color while his pupils dilated from the fear.

Ignoring his pleas, Gale raised the electric knife and let it fall on Thomas' left wrist. The moment the struggling hand was severed, warm blood spew out uncontrollably from the wound.

"Argh!"

Thomas' agonizing scream caused Yara to slump to the ground with her heart pounding furiously.

Despite having taken countless lives with her own hands, she had never seen such a gruesome sight before. When she saw fresh blood everywhere, her mind drew nothing but a blank.

After kicking aside the twitching hand, Gale took out a pill from his pocket, grabbed Thomas by his cheeks, and shoved it in his mouth.

"Swallow it. After you do so, you'll still survive without your left hand." Gale casually remarked, "Don't accuse me of not pleading for mercy on your behalf, for you might have lost your other hand instead. Also, the pill is given to you on the account of your long service."

Thomas was in so much pain that his face contorted in a bunch.

Glaring at the man who cut off his hand, Thomas felt the urge to tear him apart. However, his desire for survival forced him to disregard his pride and quickly swallow the pill with the help of his saliva.

The pain Thomas suffered was so overwhelming that he didn't even have the strength to whimper.

After feeding Thomas the pill, Gale left him at the side before turning his attention to Yara. "Now that your father has received his punishment, Ms. Nichols, it's your turn now."

Shaking her head, Yara pleaded with her trembling lips, "No, King, please give me one more chance. I beg of you, please give me one more chance!"

Walking up to Yara, Gale turned on the electric knife.

However, he pointed it at Yara's face instead of her hand. "The organization gives women a discount by only disfiguring half of the face and leaving the limbs intact."

"No, No..."

"Failures do not deserve mercy," Gale snapped as he gradually moved his electric knife closer to Yara's face.

A split second before he carved her face, King's voice rang out from the phone.

"Gale, stop."

"What?" Despite hearing King's instructions, Gale couldn't believe his ears.

"I told you to stop!"

Gale asked in disbelief, "Doesn't the organization's rules state—"

"Are you doubting my decision?" After a brief pause, King added, "She looks exactly like Natalie, which will be of use one day. It's enough to have struck fear into her. Your job is now done."

Even though Gale was dissatisfied with the order, he didn't dare disobey King. Subsequently, he left after keeping his knife.

At that moment, the Nichols residence fell silent all of a sudden.

The only sounds that could be heard were Thomas groaning in pain and Yara panting out of fear.

Despite her tear-stained face and bloodshot eyes, Yara's hand wasn't severed, unlike her father.

The only reason she managed to keep her life was that she had the same appearance as Natalie.

Chapter 737 Driven Mad By Jealousy

Everything that had happened at the Nichols residence was covered up subsequently.

Unaware of what had happened, Natalie went shopping for food at the supermarket after leaving Dream.

Ever since the press conference, she stopped wearing the hyper-realistic mask. Instead, she would go out with just an ordinary face mask on. Despite not wearing any makeup and having the mask cover half her face, she still couldn't hide the natural charm she exuded.

When she was about to pay for her food, a hand blocked her from scanning her phone for payment.

"Hmm?"

Looking up curiously, she saw Shawn's gentle smile.

"There's no need to pay. Just take them."

Natalie was stunned, for she didn't expect to run into Shawn at the supermarket. Nonetheless, Natalie was still glad to have bumped into a close friend.

“How could I do that? Unless you’re getting my bill for me?” Natalie asked with a smile. “However, given your status, don’t these seem too little?”

Accepting her banter gracefully, Shawn explained, “This isn’t considered a treat since the supermarket belongs to Watsons Group. In fact, the shares Grandpa transferred to you include those of this supermarket coincidentally. Since you’re its major shareholder, it would be weird if you paid for anything.”

Natalie nodded in acknowledgment.

“Don’t tell me that you have never gone through the content of the share transfer agreement?” Shawn asked in surprise.

“Mmm-hmm.” Natalie nodded in embarrassment. “I didn’t... look at it in detail.”

After Max’s health took a turn for the better, he transferred shares of Watsons Group to her. However, all she did was accept them, and she never interfered in the operations of the company. She simply left it aside as if it was merely gift money transferred into her account. Since it was an unexpected windfall, she barely put any thought into it.

“You...” Shawn was at a loss for words. Considering the hefty amount of shares and dividends involved, how could she not take a proper look?

“When Dream was in crisis, didn’t it cross your mind to use the shares of Watsons Group?”

“I did consider it but never did it.” Narrowing her gaze, she explained further, “In the end, it was moot. If Dream couldn’t turn the situation around on its own merits, combining the two companies wouldn’t solve the fundamental problem either. Furthermore, your grandfather gave me the shares with the hope that I could be of assistance to you and not to see me use them to cushion the impact on Dream.”

Briefly stunned by her words, Shawn broke into a smile. That’s Natalie for you.

“You sure have bought a lot. Let me help you with them,” Shawn offered.

“Sure,” Natalie readily agreed since she saw him as a friend.

While walking side by side with Shawn, she received a call from Samuel.

When he heard the background noises of the supermarket, Samuel asked, “Have you gotten off work?”

“Mmm-hmm,” Natalie responded. “I was just at the supermarket when I suddenly felt like having a steak, so I bought some back to cook.”

“I see.”

After responding in acknowledgment, Samuel heard Shawn’s voice from the other side of the line.

“Natalie, there’s a new café around the corner. Why don’t you take a break, and we have some coffee?”

“Who’s beside you?”

Feeling his heart skip a beat, Samuel lowered his voice as he grew anxious.

After throwing a glance at Shawn, Natalie replied candidly, "It's Shawn. I ran into him while shopping at a supermarket owned by Watsons Group."

Just as she spoke, Samuel's voice rang out from the phone. "I... I'm coming right away. Just stay where you are."

"Sam—"

Before Natalie could finish, Samuel had already hung up.

"Who was on the line?" Shawn asked.

"Samuel," Natalie replied with a smile.

"So, it's him." A mischievous glint flashed in Shawn's eyes. "I still can't imagine how someone like Samuel can get jealous so easily!"

Chapter 738 Samuel The Closet Beast

"Hmm?" It took Natalie a while before she realized what he meant. By the time she did, she couldn't resist smiling. "He is no different from a child when he behaves childishly. In fact, my four children are a lot more mature than him at times."

"Do you know what happened a few days before the press conference where you revealed yourself?"

"What?" Natalie knitted her brows inquisitively.

"During that period, there were large groups of men protecting you." Recalling that the men he sent didn't even have the opportunity to showcase their skills, Shawn lamented, "I had thought that Samuel didn't care about the crisis at Dream but was later surprised to find out that his men had eliminated the assassins gunning for you before my men even arrived."

Natalie's eyes widened in shock, for she wasn't aware of the drama behind the scenes of an otherwise uneventful period.

"Samuel sent men to watch my back?"

When he saw how stunned Natalie looked, Shawn was surprised. "You didn't know? There was more than one batch of assassins who came for you. Fortunately, it was the same for those who protected you. Nonetheless, your unawareness doesn't come as a surprise since Samuel's actions have been truly covert."

Natalie's heart warmed upon hearing those words.

What a closet beast! Despite all he has done for me, he never mentioned it at all. If not for Shawn telling me about it, I would still have been kept in the dark.

Soon, Samuel arrived at the supermarket and found Natalie chatting with Shawn.

Even though he was aware that there was nothing going on between them, Samuel still couldn't help but feel a tinge of jealousy. Walking up and placing himself right between the two, he pulled her into his embrace. "Mr. Watsons, since I'm here, there's no need to trouble yourself with looking after my girl."

Even though his magnetic voice seemed to contain a hint of benevolence, Samuel's eyes burned with hostility.

Feeling awkward from the stare Samuel was giving him, Shawn broke into a smile. "For Natalie's sake, it's no trouble at all."

Those words inadvertently added fuel to fire, causing an icy glint to flash in Samuel's eye.

While both men were locked in a staredown, a crowd began to gather and gossip.

"Look at those two men. Are they fighting over the woman? Both of them are so handsome, especially the one on the left!"

"That girl must have a face that launched a thousand ships. Even with her mask on, I can still see how pretty she is!"

"There's no need for the girl at all! Just the two men alone will make an awesome couple. The pairing of an aggressive one with a submissive one would make a better match!"

The last girl's voice traveled into Natalie's ear.

Subconsciously, she looked at Samuel on her left before turning her attention to Shawn on her right. Linking the sight to the girl's comment about both men being the perfect couple, Natalie could suddenly see the different charms both men were exuding.

When Samuel and Shawn turned to look at Natalie in unison, they quickly read what was going through her mind.

"Ugh..."

"Ugh..."

Exchanging glances again, both men retched in reflex.

Aware that both of them were straight and that she had gone overboard with her fantasies, she suggested in a delightful tone, "Since it's such a wonderful coincidence to be gathered here today, why don't I buy both of you coffee?"

Shawn readily agreed, "Sure."

Despite his reluctance, Samuel nodded out of respect for Natalie. Nevertheless, he continued to keep her close with his hand holding her slender waist tightly.

Chapter 739 Mine Is Sweeter

At the café, Natalie ordered a latte for herself. Subsequently, the staff asked the two towering men next to her, "Sirs, what would you like to have?"

"Whatever she's having."

"Whatever she's having."

Both of them gave the same answer.

Sensing the tension in the air, Natalie added awkwardly, “Miss, three lattes to go, please.”

At that moment, even the staff could feel the incendiary atmosphere in the air.

After having their orders taken, Shawn received a call from his assistant. The reason he ran into Natalie there was that he was inspecting the businesses under Watsons Group. Considering he had left his assistant for an hour or two after meeting Natalie, the assistant called to remind him of their next appointment.

“I intended to stay with you for a while longer,” Shawn lamented, “but I still have something important to attend to which I’m unable to postpone.”

Natalie beamed with her eyes. “Don’t worry about it. You should get back to work. We’ll see each other again when you’re free.”

“All right. Thank you for the coffee.” Waving the latte at her, Shawn bid Natalie goodbye.

When Shawn’s assistant saw him return with only a cup of coffee after disappearing for an hour or two, he couldn’t help but frown. “Mr. Watsons, I’m sure you didn’t leave for such a long time just for a cup of coffee.”

“Hmm.” Shawn broke into a dejected smile. “Instead of bringing her back, all I got is a cup of latte.”

He still hadn’t given up on Natalie yet.

Nonetheless, he didn’t expect someone as aloof as Samuel to behave in such a possessive manner, leaving him no chance to compete at all.

As bitterness crept into Shawn’s heart, it was cushioned by the soothing taste of the latte.

After bidding their farewells to Shawn, Samuel led Natalie to the underground parking lot.

Having broken the seal on her latte cup, Natalie stuck a straw in and drank one-third of it. When she turned to look at Samuel, she noticed that his drink was untouched.

“Samuel, why aren’t you drinking?”

Just as she spoke, she took another sip of her drink. Before she managed to swallow it, Samuel unbuckled her seat belt and pulled her over. Subsequently, he planted a kiss on her lips.

Everything happened in a flash without any warning at all.

Before Natalie could react, she felt her lips being pried open and her coffee sucked away.

Despite finishing the coffee in her mouth, Samuel wasn’t satisfied at all. Holding the back of her head, he prevented her from backing off while ravaging her mouth with greater intensity.

Faced with his overwhelming passion, Natalie felt her tense body gradually weaken.

In a secluded corner of the parking lot, Samuel didn’t give Natalie any chance to flee despite how uneasy she felt.

It wasn’t till a long while later that he finally let her go.

Blushing from her face to her ears, Natalie glared coquettishly at Samuel. "Didn't I buy one for you? Why must you... drink from mine?"

When he finally caught his breath, he gave her a mischievous look and replied matter-of-factly, "The coffee in my cup doesn't taste as sweet as the one in your mouth."

Natalie's pupils constricted suddenly as her heart began to race. She couldn't believe how audacious Samuel was when it came to whispering sweet nothings. If someone were to walk past them at that moment, she would wish for the ground to open up and swallow her.

Feeling thirsty, Natalie wanted to take another sip of her drink.

However, the thought of the passionate kiss from a moment ago deterred her from doing so.

Chapter 740 Overthinking

Back at the Bowers residence, Samuel stopped Natalie from carrying her groceries and offered, "Let me do it."

"Sure," Natalie gladly accepted with a nod as she stayed by his side submissively.

When Gavin saw Samuel and Natalie walk in intimately, he felt an inexplicable burning sensation in his eyes. The sight of someone accompanying his employer brought him untold joy.

"Welcome back," Gavin greeted them with a vibrant smile as he discreetly wiped the corner of his eye.

"Mmm-hmm." Pointing at the groceries Samuel was carrying, Natalie suggested, "I suddenly felt like having steak, so let's cook some tonight!"

Gavin replied warmly, "Sure. I'll whip up anything that you fancy."

After receiving the groceries, Gavin went into the kitchen to cook. Soon, a myriad of dishes was served on the table. There was steak, seafood, vegetables, and many other dishes.

Rubbing their hands, the children stared at the smoke oozing from the sizzling steaks.

Even though Natalie was famished, she still had to help the children with their food for fear of them getting scalded by the hot plates. At that moment, Xavian picked up the cutlery and suggested with a smile, "Mommy, you're almost drooling on the steak. Let me do it instead. Before we came to the Bowers residence, wasn't I the one who always served you and Clayton?"

Evidently, Xavian was the most attentive out of the four children, for he was aware of how much she loved steak.

Of all the dishes on the table, the one she couldn't resist was the steak. Given how fat and juicy it was, its taste was so tantalizing that it would give anyone who ate it foodgasm.

"Mmm-hmm."

After cutting a piece for herself, she quickly noticed that two other pieces were added to her plate.

One was from Franklin, while the other was from Samuel.

“Mommy, take mine!” Franklin raised his brow. “Mine’s more tender. Daddy’s overcooked.”

Samuel casually warned, “Be careful of it being uncooked if it’s too tender.”

Natalie seemed oblivious to the father and son’s squabbles as she shoved both pieces of steak into her mouth.

Consequently, Samuel and Franklin were equally stumped.

Sitting at the dinner table, the entire family enjoyed a wonderful time together.

Samuel didn’t eat much as he spent most of his time observing Natalie and serving her whatever she wanted. Also, he would constantly help her wipe away the stains around her mouth, which she wasn’t aware of.

Toward the end of their meal, Samuel’s phone began to buzz in his pocket.

After checking to see who was calling, Samuel left the dining room to answer the call. The next moment, Steven’s voice rang out.

“What is it?”

“Sam, have you forgotten that the day after tomorrow is the day you’re supposed to give the Bowers family and the elders an explanation?” Steven’s voice was filled with anxiety. “Even though your imprisonment of Miguel in the villa was done secretly, news of it still leaked. Consequently, the elders and other relatives managed to find out about it and are dissatisfied with you for doing so. As of now, they have yet to censure your actions due to their fear of you. But if you don’t provide them an acceptable explanation three days later, they will depose you as the head of the Bowers family easily, just like how they helped install you in the first place.”

“It doesn’t matter,” Samuel plainly replied. “It makes no difference that I give the position up and hand it over to you.”

“Yes, you might not care about the position, but please think about my future sister-in-law,” Steven reminded in a concerned tone. “Until the perpetrator responsible for Grandpa’s accident is found, the Bowers family will not rest. Even if she is under your protection, she still won’t be able to live her life in peace.”

“I know.” Looking out the window at the night sky, Samuel reassured his brother, “Steven, I know you’re concerned about me, but your worries are unnecessary this time.”