

Happiness 741

Chapter 741 The Children Are Still Here

“Sam, what do you mean?” Steven couldn’t help but press further.

“Exactly what I said.”

With that, Samuel ended the call before Steven could clarify any further.

By the time he returned to the dining room, he noticed that there were still some pasta, steak, and vegetables on his plate.

“This is...”

“I kept them for you.” Supporting her chin with her hand, Natalie beamed at him. “I’m not blind, you know. I could see that you were serving me throughout dinner and barely ate.”

“I’m not hungry,” Samuel replied leisurely.

“I set them aside myself. Aren’t you going to eat them?” Taking back the cutlery, Natalie pretended to get up. “If you’re not eating, I’m going to call—”

Before she could finish her sentence, Samuel cut her off by sealing her lips with a kiss.

As she felt her blood rush through her veins, she caught a glimpse of Xavian, who didn’t manage to leave in time, out of the corner of her eye.

With his eyes wide open and hands frozen with cutlery in them, he stared blankly as his daddy and mommy shared a kiss.

Just when Natalie pushed Samuel away to explain the situation to Xavian, he covered his eyes and remarked knowingly, “Daddy, Mommy, I didn’t see anything. You should carry on. I’ll be taking my leave.” Just as he spoke, he jumped down from the dining chair and fled as fast as he could.

Hmph!

I’m going to make him pay for this.

“Samuel, you have gone overboard! Xavian was still here!” Natalie reprimanded him as she grabbed Samuel’s collar.

“Let it be. After all, he needs to get used to it sooner or later.” Staring into her glistening eyes, Samuel added with a raspy voice, “When it’s necessary to restrain myself, I’ll naturally do it. However, there are times when I’m unable to do so, such as when you make me jealous on purpose.”

“I...”

When Natalie mentioned that she would call Shawn, she wasn’t serious about it. There was no way she could really invite him over to have leftovers for dinner. I can’t believe he didn’t pick up on my humor.

“I was just kidding. Why do I feel a strong sense of jealousy from you?” Natalie scrunched her nose.

“So behave and don’t make me jealous anymore.”

Glancing sideways at her with his deep dark eyes, Samuel gently brushed his finger across her lips. Despite the man holding his lust back, she could still feel his hormones raging uncontrollably. In fact, the way he asked her to behave sounded exceptionally seductive.

Feeling a warm sensation in her cheeks, Natalie lowered her gaze subconsciously.

Nevertheless, Samuel lifted her head the next moment, forcing her to look into his eyes.

“Have some pasta,” Natalie suggested softly.

Ignoring her words, Samuel continued to focus his attention on her lips. “There’s no hurry.”

“Hmm?”

Amidst her confusion, Samuel kissed her again, ravaging her mouth passionately.

Unable to escape, she had no choice but to reciprocate the kiss.

Meanwhile, at the hospital, Thomas’ arm was supported by a sling as he lay feebly on the bed.

Sitting by his side, Yara stared at his arm which was then missing a hand.

Every time she closed her eyes, the gruesome scene of Gale severing Thomas’ hand with blood spewing everywhere would flash across her mind, causing her face to lose all color.

“Has King always been this way?” Yara trembled at the thought.

“Do you think that I have never thought of quitting given how inhumane those experiments are?”

Thomas lamented with a frail voice, “Do you think profit is the only thing that motivates me to work on this till now or even the day I die?”

Chapter 742 Talk About It In Bed

Right that instant, Yara finally had a grasp of the situation. She suddenly realized that King would not let Thomas off the hook easily. After all, he had backed her father up financially, pinning hope on him to get the mission accomplished. Since things went south, the latter had to pay the price.

At the thought of King’s callousness, Thomas and Yara went silent.

Grief-stricken, Thomas stared dispiritedly at his bandaged arm as he was lost in his thoughts. No words could describe his resentment and anguish after King instructed Gale to chop his hand off ruthlessly! Nonetheless, he was clueless about King’s exact identity. Even after staying by his side for years, he only knew that the latter was not from Chanaea. Evidently, he has been really good at hiding his identity all these years! There might even be an extremely powerful mastermind manipulating him in the dark!

How is it possible for me to fight against King?

Thomas sighed helplessly. He had no choice but to swallow his indignance and grievance.

Yara did not stay back to accompany Thomas in the ward. Instead, she stepped out of the hospital after having a word with the doctor.

Even though it was spring, she could feel an unusual whiff of frigidness as the night breeze blew at her. As she tightened the knitted cardigan around herself, there was an unmissable hint of anxiousness on her face. She thought King had spared her for the sake of Dexmed Pharmaceutical, but it only struck her that it was due to another reason.

She could still vividly remember what she overheard earlier. King had stopped Gale at the eleventh hour, saving her from facing the tragic fate of having a disfigured face just because she looked exactly like Natalie.

Hmph! The way King treats Natalie Nichols is seemingly in stark contrast to how he treats me! In his eyes, I must be a lowly small fry. On the contrary, it seems he admires her like a respectable opponent. We're twin sisters. But why is everyone looking down on me? They not only have a soft spot for Natalie Nichols but are also in awe of her.

In an instant, waves of indecipherable emotions crashed into her heart, causing her entire body to shudder uncontrollably.

After what seemed like an eternity, Yara finally managed to cool her head off in the middle of the night. Wandering on the street, a glint of sheer frigidness and malice flickered in her eyes.

Snippets of how she confronted Natalie five years ago flashed across her mind. By right, only one of us can exist in this world! I must get rid of Natalie Nichols to have peace of mind!

The next second, she whipped out her phone from her bag. Tamping down her simmering abhorrence, she had no choice but to make a call to Reuben, Yuvaan's son.

"Ah! Yara, finally a call from you! Does it mean that you've thought it through?" The latter's voice sounded from the other end of the line.

Yuvaan was about seventy years old, while Reuben was already in his late forties, about the same age as Thomas.

After taking a deep breath, she asked placidly, "Where're you now? I'll go over to look for you. There's something I need to discuss with you."

"Don't you think it's inappropriate to have a discussion in the office at such a late hour?" Reuben replied ambiguously.

He had been having designs on Yara ever since he first set his eyes on her. Her stunning looks and alluring figure were irresistible to him. Not to mention, she had rejected him numerous times throughout the years, making him desire her even more.

Yara had been well aware of his ulterior motive since long ago. She stated coldly, "Let's discuss in bed then. I hope you can keep your words to help me after I've satisfied you."

It never occurred to Reuben that Yara would agree to make a deal with him. Over the moon, he laughed heartily. "Great! I'll send you the location of the hotel in a while. I'll wait for you there, okay?"

"Okay!" Yara replied impatiently and hung up.

Samuel, you're trying to clear Natalie Nichols' name as the culprit of Old Mr. Bowers' death by all means, aren't you? Well, you'll soon know that it's just your wishful thinking!

Raising her dainty face, Yara burst out laughing self-deprecatingly. A surge of resentment within her intensified as time elapsed.

In the meantime, it was calm and peaceful in the Bowers residence.

Natalie was coaching Sophia on medical skills patiently. Impressed by the latter's tremendous advancement, she could not help heaving a sigh of admiration. Ah! I bet it's just a matter of time before she surpasses me!

Compared to Sophia, the other three boys were obviously more independent in a way. At the moment, they had their heads buried in the books they were interested in, respectively.

Other parents usually lamented about their kids spending too much time on electronic devices, fearing they would have eyesight problems. Natalie could not help feeling amused that she might be the only parent worrying about her children having such problems from reading incessantly.

At the thought of that, Natalie called out to them, "Everyone, let's have some fruits and take a break!"

Chapter 743 The Four Fervent Fans

The four kids shifted their gazes reluctantly away from their books and dragged themselves to the dining table to have some fruits.

Meanwhile, Gavin pulled Natalie to a corner of the living room. He looked troubled as if something was bugging him.

Sensing his hesitation, Natalie cut to the chase. "Gavin, just speak your mind."

After pondering for a while, he stated warily, "I've heard about the tragic fate of Old Mr. Bowers, and I never doubt that you have nothing to do with it. However, everyone in the Bowers family is talking behind you, claiming you as..."

His voice trailed off as he paused, considering that Natalie might get upset with his words. Even so, the latter flashed him a mischievous smile and joked, "Are they claiming that I'm a witch that appeared out of the blue, deluding their patriarch and stirring up turbulence in their family?"

Gavin was momentarily stunned before nodding in embarrassment.

"Don't get me wrong. I only intend to let you know that Mr. Samuel is leaving no stones unturned to clear your name and being protective of you so that you won't be affected by those rumors. But if he fails to do so, I hope you won't blame him," Gavin advised her earnestly. In his eyes, Natalie was not only the spouse of his respectable young master but also a youngster he doted.

Seconds later, he added resignedly, "I've been by Mr. Samuel's side for years. Obviously, he's deeply in love with you. Nonetheless, Old Mr. Bowers was the former patriarch of the Bowers family, and everyone had a reverence for him all these years. Now that he met his tragic end mysteriously, I'm worried the worst is yet to come for you, other than the others' oppressive rebuke. Thus, I hope you can stay strong and be mentally prepared for that."

Feeling touched by Gavin's words of advice, Natalie nodded and reassured him, "Gavin, don't worry. I know what to do."

"All right. I'm relieved that you say so." Gavin heaved a sigh of relief.

Soon, it was the day Samuel promised to unearth the truth behind Kenneth's death and give the Bowers family an explanation.

He woke up earlier than usual in the morning. After changing into a black shirt that contoured his broad shoulders and narrow waist, he exuded an impressive vibe of dignity.

Samuel moved as silently as possible so that he would not wake Natalie up. He stepped out after planting a light kiss on her forehead.

Little did he realize that Natalie had already woken up. Not long after he left, she opened her eyes, lifted the blanket, and got down from the bed.

After a quick wash-up, she changed into a black dress before stepping out of the Bowers residence. To keep pace with Samuel, she chose to hop onto a bike instead of driving.

Before setting off, she gave Gerald a call. "Mr. Jones, I'm heading to the Bowers manor."

"No problem. Everything is well prepared as requested by you," Gerald reassured her.

"I feel bad that you and Effie have to take the risk this round because of me," Natalie uttered guiltily.

Natalie was well aware that Gerald was impartial at work. Nonetheless, he crossed his line willingly to assist her this time. Thus, she was utterly thankful to him.

"Mr. Jones, thank you so much!" Natalie thanked him with utmost sincerity.

"Ha! I'm thankful to have you and Effie as my granddaughters. Stop all the formalities. Otherwise, I'll be flustered." Gerald pretended to sound annoyed. Even so, there was not the slightest bit of annoyance in his tone.

"Okay!" Deep down, Natalie vowed to repay his kindness one day.

After hanging up, she put on the helmet and stepped on the accelerator to speed off toward the Bowers residence.

Meanwhile, her four kids were hiding behind the door. Gazing at her retreating figure, they could not help gasping admiringly.

"Oh! I'm in awe of our mommy! She's undoubtedly gorgeous, like a deity. But how could she ride a bike so well and look stunning like an action movie star?" Franklin let out a sigh of admiration.

"Ha! You'd hardly been by Mommy's side for the past five years. Hmph! Let me tell you. You missed a lot of Mommy's eye-catching moments!" Clayton teased him.

"Yeah! Mommy is no ordinary woman! Don't ever think of picking on her!" Xavian puffed up his chest proudly.

“Yeah! Since I’m Mommy’s daughter, I’ll surely take after her and become an outstanding woman like her!” Sophia yelled out jubilantly, her eyes gleaming with a glint of excitement.

Chapter 744 Sweep It Under The Rug

After about forty minutes, Samuel’s car pulled to a halt outside the Bowers manor.

The moment he stepped into the manor, he caught sight of all the elders and relatives of the Bowers family seated while waiting for him. Wearing a look of utter solemnity and grimness, everyone had their eyes on Samuel.

As the head of the family’s elders, Miguel was seated at the head of the table. His white beard looked striking against his traditional attire in black. Placing his intertwined hands lightly above his cane, he glowered at Samuel with penetrative eyes.

He was supposed to be grounded at his villa at the moment. Even so, Samuel was not surprised to see him there. He presumed someone must have helped pull strings for him to be there.

Other than him, Yuvaan, the second elder, Xylan, the third elder, and even the others from the Bowers family who did not manage to show up previously were there. At that very moment, it was as though they had readied themselves to battle against their mortal enemy.

Everyone held their breaths as pin-drop silence ensued in the whole manor.

Miguel turned crimson with fury when Natalie was nowhere to be seen. He rose to his feet at once and fumed, “Where’s that woman? Why didn’t she come together with you? How could you back her up and oppose the whole Bowers family?”

He did not even address Samuel formally with respect and sounded as if he was a police officer interrogating a suspect.

Unperturbed by his questioning, Samuel remained as nonchalant as ever. With one hand in his pocket, he responded placidly, “Since she’s not the culprit, there’s no point for her to show up here. After all, I’ll unearth the truth as promised.”

Hearing that, everyone in the hall could not help drawing in a sharp gasp. As they fastened their gazes on Samuel, there were mixed emotions of disbelief, disappointment, and disdain in their eyes. They could not fathom why the youngest and most omnipotent patriarch of their family would go against them because of a woman.

“Did that woman cast any spell on him, causing him to lose his mind?”

“How disappointing! Mr. Kenneth met his tragic end mysteriously, but his grandson is standing up for the culprit!”

“Sooner or later, the Bowers family will be doomed if we continue to let such an irrational person be our patriarch. He’s too much!”

In an instant, the bellows from the close relatives of the Bowers family reverberated in the whole manor.

On the other hand, Miguel and Xylan exchanged looks discreetly. Before they could utter any words, Reuben stepped forward from the crowd. After clearing his throat, he piped up, "Ha! It seems I'm not the only one having a problem with our respectable Mr. Samuel. I never knew that everyone shares the same sentiment as me! Today I'll be the one to let him reveal his true colors then. Heed my words. Being an omnipotent person doesn't mean that he is virtuous. Even though his grandfather was poisoned by a heinous woman, he didn't even take any legal actions against her. In fact, he's even dawdling and sweeping things under the rug so that she'll not be charged with murdering! I believe Old Mr. Bowers surely wouldn't be able to rest in peace if he were to know that his grandson is standing up for the culprit. The patriarch of the Bowers family should be a good-natured person. Unequivocally, Samuel is not qualified to be our patriarch, let alone the CEO of Centurion Corporation!"

Reuben's derision rang out like a bolt from the blue.

Needless to say, the despicable man was well-prepared for the moment. Those whom he had bribed the night before began echoing.

"Yeah! You've got a point! What if that ruthless woman has the audacity to commit heinous deeds again? I doubt Samuel will act impartially. He will definitely continue to cover up for her!"

"It doesn't mean we're rebuking our patriarch for being merciful and sympathetic. We're just utterly disappointed with him for standing up for a cold-blooded murderer!"

"Of course, our opinions aren't significant enough to make a difference if only a few of us think so. However, since everyone has the same stance as us, I guess we should let someone virtuous take over his position as the patriarch of our family."

Right that instant, Yara, too, was standing among the crowd. Gazing at Samuel's devastating good looks, she could not help mumbling inwardly.

Samuel, I don't intend to be on bad terms with you. As long as you're willing to hand Natalie Nichols over to the Bowers family, I won't strip you of your position as the patriarch of the family. Nonetheless, if you insist on backing her up, Reuben Bowers will be the one taking over your current position!

Chapter 745 Unsightly Scene

Irrked by the others' criticism, Samuel unbuttoned his cufflinks, exposing his forearms.

Scanning everyone with a hint of coldness in his eyes, he scoffed, "Since when has the Bowers family started playing such underhanded tactics? There isn't any concrete evidence to convict Natalie of poisoning my grandpa, and you're already blowing things out of proportion. It only makes me wonder. Is it because you can't wait to seek justice for my grandpa or because you want to pull me down for your own sake?"

In a split second, everyone's face fell.

Reuben's face turned grim instantaneously.

Seconds later, Samuel added casually, "Reuben Bowers, as the second elder's eldest son, you're seemingly a lot older than me. Thus, you should have a clearer insight into everything than I do. Don't you know that the age factor is not the key to becoming the patriarch of a family?"

Blowing his gasket, Reuben snarled, "What do you mean? How could you humiliate me?"

"Ah! It seems you can hardly wait to be the patriarch of the Bowers family," Samuel sneered.

Reuben blushed crimson and growled in exasperation, "How could you slander me? I've never said so!"

"Reuben Bowers, how could you have the gut to stir up turmoil by telling cock-and-bull stories! From today onwards, you're officially expelled from the Bowers family and should be having no truck with all of us here in the future. In other words, you'll lose everything!" Samuel snickered as a glint of disdain flickered in his eyes.

His last few words sent Reuben into an instant tizzy, and the latter's face turned ashen.

Reuben gritted his teeth and bellowed, "Samuel Bowers, who do you think you are? What right do you have to do that? What do you mean by stirring up turmoil by telling cock-and-bull stories? You're currently being manipulated by a woman and placing the whole family in deep waters! What misdoing did I commit? I was only exposing your shameful deed!"

Throwing Reuben a glance, Samuel replied placidly, "I'm the patriarch of the Bowers family. Who're you then?"

In a blink of an eye, Reuben's pupils constricted. Unwilling to admit defeat, he put up a brave front. "Everyone, did you see that? I'm being kicked out of the Bowers family just because I've made a truthful statement. Mark my words. It's only a matter of time before all of you have the same fate as me!"

At the same time, those who took Reuben's side stepped forward one by one.

"Regardless of anything, Reuben is still our second elder's eldest son, and he has been contributing to the Bowers family all this while. How could he be punished so severely for being truthful? It's inhumane!"

"Samuel tends to be swayed by emotion and act impulsively. If he continues to be the patriarch of the Bowers family, we'll face the same fate as Reuben!"

"I agree with you! We must do something about it!"

Shooting Reuben's lackeys a glance, Samuel arched his brows and snapped, "Fine. Since you're so faithful to him, you can leave together with him. After all, the Bowers family has been kind enough to all the good-for-nothings all these years. I'll grab this golden opportunity to eradicate all the rotten apples."

Next, he turned to instruct Billy who was standing beside him, "Billy, let everyone take a look at what Reuben Bowers and the others have done."

Without hesitation, the latter whipped out his phone. Shortly after, the message notification tone of everyone's phones sounded concurrently.

Everyone unlocked their phone screens instinctively and was immediately overwhelmed by the unsightly scenes in the video clips.

In the first video clip, Reuben was flirting frivolously with a few scantily dressed women in a nightclub. Later, he tossed piles of cash notes to them while signing the copies of contracts handed over to him by his client. Everyone could not help but grimace at the repulsive waves of laughter in the video.

Soon, everyone received the second video clip, then the third one, and the fourth one.

Those who spoke up for Reuben a while ago showed up one by one in the video clips. Most of them were involved in tax evasion and led extravagant lifestyles. Obviously, none of the video clips were fabricated, so there was no way they could deny their misdoings.

Subsequently, everyone present gasped in sheer disbelief.

Even Reuben and his lackeys were nonplussed. Undeniably, all these video clips are real! Even so, we've always been extra careful and didn't leave any trace behind us. So how did someone take the videos? How was it possible for Samuel Bowers to obtain them?

Chapter 746 To A Terrifying Level

Everyone's gazes fell on Samuel, who merely remained standing where he was with a dark expression on his face as he glared at a stunned Reuben tauntingly.

"Billy has more of these videos. I can have him show us more if that's what you all want," Samuel remarked, "until you grow tired of watching them."

He sounded nonchalant, but everyone else was now holding their breaths in fright.

After all, every person had his secrets, and there was no way these nobles inside the mourning hall hadn't committed any unscrupulous deeds. They might be in their fancy suits and behave virtuously, but if their secrets were to come to light, it would be over for them.

They weren't just fearful of being either shamed or persecuted.

They were also afraid of how powerful Samuel could become now that so many of the Bowers family members' secrets were in his hands.

Terrified and anxious, the crowd glanced at Samuel subconsciously. All this while, they had thought he was nothing more than a robot who would relentlessly work and strike down his business competitors but hardly ever interfered with his own family members' affairs.

It was only then that they realized how naïve they had been.

This man in his mere twenties was so meticulous that no one knew how far or long he had planned this. He had managed to stay low-key the whole time before grabbing hold of them during this crucial moment.

Initially, these family members had wanted to remain on the sidelines.

But now, they were certain that it was time to cut ties with Reuben.

"Reuben! You self-righteous old hack!"

“Samuel is still the head of our family no matter what! Who are you to take charge when your elders haven’t spoken? Look at you talking like that when you’ve done all those disgusting things! Have you no shame?”

“Mr. Samuel is right about kicking you out! You don’t deserve to be part of the family.”

Reuben’s expression turned grim, especially at the thought of having to leave the Bowers family. That meant he had to return all the assets that belonged to the Bowerses, and he would never be allowed to take part in any of the family’s businesses or industries in the future.

He could not help but feel regret at the thought of how powerful the Bowers family was.

Not being able to involve himself in any of its business fields practically meant he could never run a business himself.

Thus, he would have to work for others.

Reuben’s face reddened with anger as he turned to Yuvaan. “Help me, father.”

As if being Reuben’s father wasn’t already humiliating enough, the former calling out to Yuvaan made him so exasperated that he was on the verge of having a heart attack. “Don’t call me your father!” he roared, pointing a finger at Reuben’s nose. “How could you sign the Bowers family’s real estate business agreement like that! Have you forgotten everything I’ve taught you since you were young?”

Upon hearing that, Reuben’s eyes turned bleak, and his legs began to feel like jelly.

With pursed lips, Samuel then turned to Reuben’s close ones. “Since you’re all his close relatives and friends, leave the Bowers family and keep him company. Now.”

There was something so dark and sinister about the way his eyes and thin lips appeared, and he exuded the aura of a tyrant as he glared at them.

Everyone there was older than Samuel was, but at this very moment, none of them dared question his order.

Meanwhile, Yara watched the scene from an inconspicuous corner, scraping her nails against the wall in fury. She had just spent the night with Reuben to talk him into forcing Samuel to abandon Natalie, only for Samuel to be one step ahead and get rid of Reuben instead.

Chapter 747 No Mercy

The friction caused Yara’s nails to break, and blood trickled out of her fingers.

I just slept with a guy who’s over twenty years older than me for nothing! The more she thought about it, the redder her eyes became, tears threatening to spill down her cheeks.

Why?

I’ve done so much, but this woman just wouldn’t die!

At Samuel’s command, Reuben and his gang were instantly dragged out of Kenneth’s mourning hall, and the entire venue returned to silence.

Fear arose within the remaining audience as they stared at the young man before them.

Every living person had secrets that should never see the light.

If Samuel could easily expose the secrets of Reuben and his allies, he could surely do the same to the rest of them. Hence, they now had to think twice before trying to defy him, for the consequences would be unbearable.

“Ladies and gentlemen, I’m still looking into the cause of my grandfather’s death, and I’ll be sure to make the perpetrator pay for the sake of my grandfather and the Bowers family.” Samuel’s gaze darkened as he spoke, “If there’s anyone still questioning my decision, I won’t show them any mercy.”

As soon as he said that, everyone glanced at each other, albeit remaining silent.

Miguel had previously been confined and would not have been able to leave the villa if it weren’t for today’s occasion. He was well aware of Samuel’s capabilities, and it was not a matter of whether he wanted to stay out of this; he simply couldn’t even protect himself at this point, let alone meddle with someone else’s affairs.

The second elder, Yuvaan, kept his head as low as he possibly could. After all, how could he say anything more after the embarrassment his eldest son had caused him?

Meanwhile, the third elder, Xylan, decided to keep his comments to himself upon seeing the other two elders remain quiet.

“If there are no objections, I’ll end today’s discussion,” Samuel remarked, his gaze remaining sharp.

No one dared to speak up.

Just as they decided to end the discussion and each give Kenneth a flower stalk, a clear voice rang out from the entrance. “Wait! I have something to say!”

Everyone turned to the person standing at the door.

There stood Natalie, who had removed her helmet, thus revealing her long hair and petite face.

It wasn’t their first time seeing such a beautiful face, but the crowd was then even more stunned than before.

“Isn’t she the biological mother of those two children?”

“What is she doing here?”

“Don’t tell me she’s that desperate to marry Mr. Samuel.”

“I honestly don’t get Mr. Samuel’s taste. She’s such a beauty, and yet he still prefers...”

Everyone felt sorry for this woman, thinking she was Yara.

Natalie had missed what happened earlier and was curious as to why no one seemed to be surrounding Samuel. “What did you tell them?” she asked, walking toward him.

Yet, the man held onto her slender arm and frowned. "Why are you here instead of sleeping back home?"

"I asked you a question first, so you're the one who should answer me first. What did you tell them? They asked you what you planned to do, so how did you explain things?" Natalie asked, looking up at him.

Samuel merely pursed his lips and said nothing.

Seeing that he had no intention of answering her, the woman turned to the person standing beside him. "Billy, how about answering me since your boss isn't telling me anything? What did he say before I showed up?"

Chapter 749 Betting His Reputation On It

Everyone inside the mourning hall gasped in horror.

No one managed to say a word, for all they could feel at that moment was complete shock.

At present, the mourning hall looked rather grim, with white chrysanthemums surrounding it. Kenneth's body wasn't placed there, although there was a photograph of him in the center.

Moreover, Miguel and the other two elders had watched Kenneth breathe his last with their own eyes.

Hence, the former was instantly triggered by Natalie's comment despite having finally calmed down a while ago.

Even Samuel could be seen furrowing his brows and glancing at her skeptically, but while he didn't know what she was up to, he still seemed convinced of her capabilities.

I know she can protect herself.

Even if she can't, she'll always have me.

I won't ever let anyone touch a single strand of her hair!

"Natalie Nichols, we've already agreed to give Mr. Samuel more time to find out the truth. This is the most we're willing to do," Miguel remarked furiously. "But now, here you are running your mouth about how Kenneth isn't dead! Do you think we're foolish enough to believe your nonsense?"

"I said he's not dead, so he isn't." Natalie ran her fingers through her hair and smiled faintly.

"You!" Miguel pointed at her while shaking with rage. "Y-You... Are you aware of what you're saying? This is ridiculous! How dare you spout such nonsense here in front of everyone! You may be under Mr. Samuel's protection, but that doesn't mean you can keep spewing rubbish like that! The gods are watching! Do you not fear their wrath?"

"He's right! How could she say such a thing?"

"It's because she has Mr. Samuel protecting her, but this is just too much!"

"She doesn't give a d*mn about anyone else just because she has Mr. Samuel! What would happen to the Bowers family if this keeps up?"

Despite being fearful of Samuel, the rest of the crowd was undoubtedly infuriated by Natalie's words too. They didn't dare voice their dissent aloud, but that didn't stop them from muttering among themselves. It wasn't long until the silent hall became filled with chatter.

Meanwhile, Yara couldn't help but gloat when she saw Natalie get herself into trouble once again.

Suddenly, someone cupped a hand over her mouth.

"Mmph!" Yara tried to scream, but the person covered her mouth so tightly that she couldn't make a sound.

"It's me," Gale whispered into her ear. "Don't move. Come with me."

Yara stopped trying to speak, but she still squirmed as a way to insist on remaining there.

Gale scoffed in response. "Are you still that clueless about Natalie? If she says Kenneth isn't dead, it means he isn't. Did you think she still hasn't found out about your little poison scheme?"

Yara's pupils dilated at his words.

That geezer isn't dead?

At the realization that Kenneth wasn't dead, she recalled all the things she had said to him before he lost consciousness. Now that the old man was actually still alive, he would surely remember everything she had told him and regard her as an enemy from then onward.

I'm screwed!

At the same time, Yara understood that she could no longer resist Gale's orders and that she had to leave right away.

As Yara quietly left in the shadows, Natalie remained composed in the face of everyone's doubt toward her. "I meant exactly what I said—he's still alive."

"That's impossible!" Miguel rose to his feet while glaring at her. "If you're saying he's still alive, prove it to us! If you don't, you're only causing trouble for Mr. Samuel! He can protect you all he wants, but you're putting his reputation on the line!"

Chapter 748 Who Says He Is Dead

"I-I..." Billy began to stammer, clearly not expecting Natalie to approach him instead.

"It's never too late for revenge, Billy, and you know what I'm like. I'll spare you if you tell me the truth," Natalie said mischievously. "Think about it. But you'll be sorry if you stay quiet."

Billy instantly broke out in a cold sweat. Natalie was the mother of the four precious children and the woman who had his boss' heart. Getting on her bad side would be far more terrifying than incurring Samuel's wrath!

"Mr. Bowers has... the secrets of all those people who tried to slander you. He kicked them out of the family... before they could do anything to you," explained Billy as he closed his eyes.

Natalie's eyes widened in shock upon hearing that.

Meanwhile, Samuel glanced at Billy frostily. "Who said you could talk? I guess you're not afraid of p*ssing me off, huh?"

Billy continued to sweat. Oh, God. This is just too much.

"Don't make things hard for him, Samuel. Blame it on me if you're mad," Natalie insisted. "I didn't have a knife on his throat, but I still kind of forced him to talk."

The man narrowed his eyes as he asked, "People are going to question my authority if you do this."

"So, it's okay for my authority to be questioned?"

The pair gazed at each other for a few seconds. Soon, the imposing look in Samuel's eyes turned into one of vanquishment and adoration.

"There won't be a next time."

"Okay."

They conversed as though there was no one else around, sending the three elders and the rest of the Bowers family into a state of utter confusion. This man who had just banished Reuben for Natalie's sake was then being so doting toward the woman they all thought was Yara.

"What... on earth is going on?" Miguel couldn't help but ask while stroking his white beard.

Samuel shook his head at Natalie, not wanting her to get involved.

Yet, the woman held his hand and glanced at him confidently before declaring, "I'm Natalie Nichols."

The crowd was instantly taken aback.

"How is that possible? Doesn't Natalie have freckles on her face?"

"Are you the same Natalie Nichols that I know? You share the same name, but you look completely different!"

"Right? Aren't you Yara Nichols, the mother of Mr. Franklin and Ms. Sophia?"

"That's what I thought, too! Why are you suddenly calling yourself Natalie?"

Natalie tossed the helmet she was holding to Billy and declared, "I am Natalie Nichols in the flesh. I was wearing a hyper-realistic mask the last time you met me. Yara and I are twin sisters. We look almost the same, but we're two different people."

"That was a disguise? Does such a mask really exist?" Xylan asked, his eyes widening in disbelief.

Natalie smiled. "Anything is possible in this world. You may not have experienced something yourself, but that doesn't mean it doesn't exist. Anyway, what I'm about to tell you may surprise you more, so please prepare yourselves."

Such haughtiness and extraordinaire!

The woman seemed so unruly and straightforward, but no one despised her. Instead, they gave in to her impressive demeanor!

Indeed, she gave off a different vibe compared to the gentle-looking Yara.

“Natalie, don’t you realize what occasion it is today?” Miguel suddenly boomed while gripping the handles of his wooden chair. “Mr. Samuel hasn’t found out who killed Kenneth, but that doesn’t mean you’re no longer a suspect! I don’t care what you look like or whether you wore a mask, but you’re clearly disrespecting the previous head of the Bowers family who has just passed away by showing up like this!”

Miguel was wary of Samuel, so he constantly emphasized funeral etiquette instead of talking about the culprit behind Kenneth’s death.

You sneaky geezer, Natalie thought to herself before curling her lips into a wider smile. “The previous head of the Bowers family who has just passed away? Who told you he’s dead?”

Chapter 750 A Plague

He’s right! He does sound kind of harsh, but it’s the truth. The rest of the crowd agreed with Miguel.

Meanwhile, Samuel continued to hold the woman’s hand in his, not too tightly but with a slight squeeze.

He had always trusted her since the day Kenneth ‘died.’ Even if everyone else now thought she was spouting lies, the man still believed in her.

Natalie cleared her throat. “You’re right. He’s putting his reputation at stake by choosing to defend me, but that’s exactly why I won’t let him down. If you want to see Old Mr. Bowers in person, that’s absolutely possible. But it’s a bit of a long journey, so you’ll have to wait thirty minutes for him to get here. Until then, please be patient. The truth will reveal itself in half an hour.”

Hearing that, Miguel stroked his beard again and nodded. “Fine. If it’s half an hour, so be it! We’ll all be here waiting, but I hope you can promise me one thing, Mr. Samuel.”

“He’s talking to you.” Natalie signaled Samuel.

“What is it, Mr. Miguel? Do tell.”

“If Mr. Kenneth is indeed alive, we elders shall apologize sincerely to Ms. Nichols. However...” Miguel paused briefly before he continued, “If this turns out to be a complete, elaborate hoax, I hope you can differentiate between what’s right and wrong. Promise me that you’ll never let this woman become the lady of the household.”

The elderly man sounded particularly earnest as he spoke with a pained expression, but Natalie only felt like punching him.

I just want to let them know that he’s still alive. I don’t care if they think I’m a lunatic, but now, they’re even using me as a gamble? If that isn’t enough, they’re also trying to get Samuel to treat me like a mistress just because they’re afraid of p*ssing him off!

She glanced at Samuel at that thought.

Yet, the man’s gaze turned dark, and he replied unhesitatingly, “I promise you.”

Natalie tensed up. Did he agree because he trusts me that much? Or is it because he's actually thinking of just keeping me as a mistress while officially marrying someone else?

The crowd was just as astonished as she was. Never had they expected him to agree so readily.

Time ticked away as everyone remained in wait.

Despite waiting of their own accord, they all found this whole ordeal beyond absurd.

The dead can never come back to life, yet this man is abusing his authority by constantly defending this vixen! Who is she to tell us that Mr. Kenneth is still alive when we clearly watched him die?

Time was ticking by.

Over twenty minutes had passed, and half an hour would soon be up.

Miguel got up from his seat again and walked toward Samuel with a cane. "It's been thirty minutes, but there's still no sign of Kenneth."

Having run out of patience, the old man began to flare up as he roared, "I must've gone senile to have agreed to such a preposterous request! Thirty minutes! Thank goodness it was just thirty minutes instead of three hours! A dead man will never come back to life whether it's thirty minutes, three hours, or three days later.

This is utterly disrespectful toward everyone who wasted their time and Kenneth! Now, I know you're not going to appreciate hearing this, Mr. Samuel, but this is for your own good. I hope you don't go back on your word. I can't stop you from liking her, but you have your responsibilities as the patriarch. You can't keep being unreasonable just because of your children and personal feelings!"

As he spoke, Miguel tossed his cane aside and prostrated himself before Samuel.

"Please keep your word, Mr. Samuel!"

Natalie was speechless. Why does it feel like this geezer just thinks of me as a plague?