

Happiness 761

Chapter 761 Remain Kneeling

“Really?” Natalie asked, resting her cheek in her palm.

“We have advanced technology now. Even if they’re not fraternal twins, they still can share the same face after undergoing plastic surgery,” Samuel said in a low voice. “Perhaps one can make a perfect copy of another person’s exterior, but the soul within that husk can never be imitated. I will never mistake someone else as you.”

How could Natalie not believe him?

She had that ugly hyper-realistic mask back then, but Samuel had still realized that it was her. Yara had pretended to be her for five years, and she never managed to win over his heart. In other words, the love the man had for her had never been a superficial one.

Natalie smiled and replied, “Samuel, if you mistook me for someone else, I’ll leave you.”

“You won’t have the chance to.” He then pinched Natalie’s pink cheeks before continuing, “Hurry and dig in. Your favorite food won’t taste as good if gets cold.”

“Mm.”

After breakfast, Natalie left home and went to Dream Corporation.

It was not a tough feat to acquire Dexmed Pharmaceutical. What was difficult was rebuilding Dexmed Pharmaceutical’s reputation. That was her grandfather’s hard work, and she wanted to salvage the brand’s reputation.

Soon, she arrived at the entrance of the building.

Just as she was about to enter the office, a male voice sounded out nearby. “Natalie, it’s me. Won’t you talk to your father? I have some things I want to talk to you about.”

The only person in the world who dared to call himself her father was Thomas.

She could never forget the stormy night when her mother passed away. She had been on her knees in front of the Nichols family’s entrance, begging Thomas to let Yara meet her one last time so that her mother could pass on in peace. Yet, Yvonne and he had refused to let her into the house.

Moreover, she would never forget how Thomas had sold her away to an old man in his sixties for his own benefit. However, as she ended up losing her virginity, she lost her value as a bargaining chip. In his fury, he had thrown an ashtray at her.

As long as she was human and possessed emotions, she would never think of a man like him as her father.

Upon hearing his voice, Natalie froze for a second. Then, her cold eyes landed on Thomas. “I’m sorry, but I only have a mother and a granddad. I don’t have a father, so please don’t try to pretend to be close to me.”

Thomas' expression darkened. "I know... I've wronged you many times, so you hate me. I know I've made a mistake. I really do. Please give me a chance to talk with you."

"I'm busy." Natalie's lips curled into a sneer. "I don't have time to talk to you about these things. Anyway, we're already in the process of acquiring the company. In a few days' time, Dexmed Pharmaceutical won't be yours anymore. You should spend more time in that office of yours because you won't be able to enter it anymore in the future."

Hearing that, Thomas' heart lurched.

The company had been his for over twenty years, but soon, he was going to lose it. Furthermore, he was going to lose it to Natalie. That was a fact he could not bring himself to accept.

Ignoring the fact that many people were coming and going from Dream Corporation's office, he suddenly knelt before Natalie.

"Natalie, please spare me a chance for the sake of what we used to be. I really can't live without Dexmed Pharmaceutical. Please help me out. Please." Thomas had no choice but to kneel before her. The only person who could help him now was Natalie.

Natalie's gaze flitted past Thomas' knees.

She was a little taken aback by his gesture, but at the same time, it did not seem too surprising that he would do that.

For the sake of power, Thomas had betrayed her grandfather, driven her mother away, and made her marriage into a deal, but now, he was begging her like a lowly dog. Everything fitted his character.

Thomas thought that his kneeling would stun Natalie into submission. However, to his surprise, Natalie was unfazed by both his actions and the looks of the passersby as she uttered, "If everything can be solved by just kneeling before another person, then we won't need the police. Still, if you enjoy the feeling of being down on your knees, go ahead. I'd like to see how much sincerity you have."

Chapter 762 You Are Not Mine

With that said, Natalie turned and left without sparing Thomas another glance.

Someone like him already has selfishness carved into his bones. All he has in his mind is power and greed. Nothing else matters to him. There's nothing for me to save, and there's no point in me helping him out. I'd rather save a dog in danger. At the very least, a dog is grateful and will know to protect its owner in times of danger.

Natalie had turned away from him without hesitation, and the look Thomas had on his face was darker than the night. Remorse crashed into him like a tidal wave.

If I knew that Natalie was going to be the better twin between the sisters, I would have had Jennie take Yara away instead of Natalie! If she had grown up with me around, I wouldn't be stuck in this terrible state.

Refusing to admit defeat, Thomas began yelling at Natalie's retreating figure.

“I have something important to talk to you about! Natalie, I’m your father! I’m your father! How can you do this to me? Aren’t you afraid of karma coming for you if you’re this cruel to your father?”

When Thomas realized that Natalie was still not turning around to look at him, he bellowed in desperation, “Natalie Nichols, do you really think that your mother is someone that great? She was already pregnant with the two of you before she married me. You and your sister were never mine!”

Natalie heard what he said, and she furrowed her brows in response. However, she assumed that his words were the words of a desperate, mad man and that they were meant to agitate her so that she would halt in her tracks. Therefore, she dismissed his words.

Regardless of everything, I’m going to crush the Nichols family and Dexmed Pharmaceutical. This is for Granddad, Mother, and me. If I don’t take revenge for this, I’m a fool!

Natalie then quietly instructed the security guard by the doorway, “If he keeps up with his nonsense, call the cops on him.”

The security guard instantly recognized his company’s beautiful chairwoman. For a moment, he was transfixed by her beauty, and he belatedly replied, “Understood.”

“Okay.”

Natalie then took the elevator and went to the highest floor. However, she did not head to the CEO’s office. Instead, she sat in the stairwell by herself.

There were no lights there—only the emergency exit sign weakly illuminated the place.

As she sat on the stairs, she hugged her legs.

Half of her revenge was already executed, and while she was delighted about that, it also felt like someone had scooped out a large part of her heart. Her heart felt empty, and liquid slowly rolled down her cheeks.

She did not want Thomas, but she wanted the love of a father.

If Thomas had not been so selfish, Natalie wondered if she would have had a happy childhood and if her relationship with Yara would not have turned foul.

Natalie was not a ruthless character, but Thomas and Yara forced her to become one.

Nevertheless, by then, there was no way back. No matter how many obstacles were in her way, she had to steel herself and keep moving forward. In the past, it was for her revenge, but now, it was for her belief.

Once she was done crying, Natalie came out of the stairwell. No traces of vulnerability was visible on her face, and she threw herself into her work again.

In the CEO’s office, Yandel reported to Natalie the arrangements made for the acquisition of Dexmed Pharmaceutical.

Natalie read the documents as she listened to his report. In the end, she said, “I’m fine with the arrangements. However, I’d suggest making Ross the CEO of Dexmed Pharmaceutical’s branch company

while retaining his current position. In other words, he'll be fully taking over the management of Dexmed Pharmaceutical."

Ross stiffened. Even though Dexmed Pharmaceutical was suffering from a poor reputation at that moment, it was still a major company. Letting him manage the company meant that she saw him as an important member of the company despite the fact that he had only been working for Natalie for less than a year.

"I..." Ross adjusted his glasses.

Noticing his hesitation, Yandel patted his shoulders and uttered, "You should just heed the boss' arrangements. It's not as if you don't know how important Dexmed Pharmaceutical is to Boss. If she's going to let you manage it, it means that you have her complete trust. Ross, what you should do is return Dexmed Pharmaceutical to its previous glorious state instead of trying to reject Natalie's suggestion."

Chapter 763 Remember For Life

Lia chimed in, "Mr. Trevor, you were the one supervising the special medicine for cancer this time. Look, it's already on the market, and it has helped out many patients with rare forms of cancer. This achievement is a sign of your capability."

Natalie then smiled and said, "Ross, the two of them have already said everything I wanted to say. It's up to you now."

When Ross looked into Natalie's smiling eyes, he found himself holding his breath.

Once upon a time, he thought he would forever be trapped in the shadows after getting hurt by Belle. Yet, ever since he encountered Natalie, his life had changed for the better.

Ross had been able to clear his name and return to his position to develop medicine again. He managed to show off his best self at the top medical conference, and now, he was offered an important role. Every step he had in life was joyous and fruitful.

He would forever remember everything Natalie had done for him. There was no way he could return the favor other than to work twice as hard. Hence, he smiled and nodded. "Ms. Nichols, I won't let you down. I'll give Dexmed Pharmaceutical a fresh start so that it can help out more people in need of medical care."

"I have trust in you, Ross," Natalie replied with a similar smile.

Noticing the merry atmosphere, Yandel then suggested, "We've been working hard for a long while. Since it's such a happy day today, why don't we have our boss treat us to a bar after work?"

"No problem. Let's do that." After a pause, Natalie continued, "I'll treat you all to the drinks, but Yandel will be the one footing the bill."

After a moment of blinking in a daze, Yandel agreed to it. "That's settled then."

After finishing up their work, the group of people left Dream Corporation's office.

When their car went past the entrance of the office building, Natalie looked out of the window and saw no signs of Thomas on his knees.

It seems like Thomas left not long after.

Although Natalie was not going to forgive Thomas for what he had done, if Thomas had stayed kneeling for a while longer, it would mean the man was still humane despite his greed. Yet, clearly, the man was not.

After averting her gaze, Natalie began using her phone as her thoughts wandered elsewhere.

As they barely had anything good at the bar, Yandel later brought them to a restaurant specializing in crab dishes.

It was a popular restaurant in Dellmoor not because of its luxurious interior but because of the freshness of its crabs. Moreover, the crabs they served were exceptionally soft.

When Lia saw the dishes on the menu, she gasped and said, “Mr. Moss, you’re generous to treat us to such an expensive meal!”

Yandel raised a brow. “Boss loves crabs, but she hates removing the shell of the crabs. If I de-shell them for Boss, Samuel is definitely going to murder me. That’s why I found this place where they serve soft-shell crab dishes.”

Hearing that, something warm seeped into Natalie’s heart. “Yandel, you’re so nice.”

“Of course.” Yandel patted his chest. “You’re my boss forever.”

“Mm.”

Not long after they took their seats, a pretty waitress in a dress served one of the dishes. In a blink of an eye, all of the dishes they ordered were on the table. It was a scrumptious meal, to say the least.

Yandel asked, “Boss, do you want to invite Yana and her husband for the meal?”

“It’s fine,” Natalie replied, shaking her head after a moment of contemplation. “Yana’s pregnant, so she shouldn’t be eating crabs. She’ll only be upset if we were to invite her here only to watch us eat. If Yana can’t eat these, her husband won’t as well, and he’ll just end up suffering beside her.”

“True.” Yandel nodded. “Next time, then.”

With that, the group began digging in.

Natalie then took a butter soft-shell crab and began eating it.

The tenderness of the crab meat with the creaminess of the butter melted in her mouth. It was unbelievably delicious.

Chapter 764 Sudden Turn Of Events

There were other dishes on the table—deviled crab, crab cake, and more. They had even ordered bisque. Every dish on the table was dishes that Natalie loved eating, so she enjoyed every moment she bit into her food.

Halfway through, Natalie's phone rang.

It was a video call from her four children.

After cleaning her hands, Natalie accepted the call and began chatting with them.

Franklin, Sophia, Xavian, and Clayton were all squeezed in front of the camera as they asked in unison, "Mommy, where are you? When are you coming back?"

As she stared at the table full of delectable dishes, she muttered guiltily, "Mommy's out having fun. I might come home a little later tonight."

"Is Mommy eating? Can Sophia see what you're eating?" Sophia softly asked.

Natalie nodded, and she turned the camera around to show her children the food on the table.

Her children were all eating nutritious meals prepared by Gavin at home. On the other hand, she was indulging in delicious food. It somehow felt wrong to her.

A moment later, Natalie turned the camera back and looked at her children on the screen.

Sophia said, "Mommy, I learned that too much crab is bad for your health, so remember to drink more water and hydrate yourself!"

Franklin said, "Mommy, Sophia's right. You have to take care of yourself even though you're enjoying your meal."

Xavian chimed in, "Mommy, if you like any particular dish, remember to send me a photo of it. I'll learn how to make the dish for you."

Clayton also added, "Mommy, if Xavian's going to make the dish for you, then I'll help him deshell the crabs."

At that moment, Natalie was speechless.

She thought that the children would grumble about her enjoying a good meal, but as it turned out, the words that came out of their mouths were endearing ones.

Her heart melted, and so did Yandel, Ross, and Lia's.

"All right, I got it. Still, you can't stay up and wait for me tonight. You have to go to bed when it's bedtime," Natalie reminded them.

"Okay, Mommy!" The four children nodded obediently before ending the call.

Once the call ended, Lia took a sip of her beverage and sighed wistfully, "Ms. Nichols, it's one thing for the kids to be cute, but how can they also be so sensible? You're tempting me to have kids of my own!"

A rare agreement came from Ross, "Yes. The four of them are so cute and sensible. This is almost unheard of!"

Despite being preoccupied with the crabs, Yandel nodded.

However, Natalie calmly put her phone aside before flashing a smile at the three of them. "If you're envious of me having four sweethearts, then it's time for you to have your own too!"

Just as those words were out of her mouth, the three hung their heads.

No other women mattered to Yandel but Amelia.

On the other hand, Lia only had Lionel in her thoughts. Their seemingly-incestuous relationship was bound to have tons of obstacles.

Although Ross' case was different from Yandel's, ever since he had been fooled by Belle and fell into hell, he had forgotten what it was like to love someone.

Natalie studied their expressions. She knew what they were thinking and what they were avoiding.

God would never mistreat the people who lived their lives to the best of their abilities. Natalie was sure that the three of them would find their own happiness.

After the meal, Yandel and Ross both went to their cars, about to head for the next round.

Lia went to the restroom. While Natalie was standing by the doorway of the restaurant, she caught a whiff of the faint scent of blood.

As she was a medical student, Natalie was exceptionally familiar with the scent of human blood. She was certain that someone was injured nearby. Instinctively, she scanned her surroundings, and it took her a long time before she noticed a black leather shoe peeking out from a nearby bush.

That must be the one!

Chapter 765 Your Luck

Natalie knew that she might be facing endless troubles if she were to stick her nose in someone else's business.

However, she could not bring herself to ignore someone who was injured. After just a few seconds of hesitation, Natalie was already walking toward the bush. Indeed, she spotted a man lying on the patch of grass, a bloody hole in his abdomen. The red liquid was still rushing outward.

Without dwelling on the sight, Natalie crouched down and held his wrist, trying to take his pulse.

Nevertheless, before she could give him an examination, the man's hand wrapped around her throat.

"What... are you trying to do?" The man's voice was weak, but Natalie could still hear his frigid tone.

"I'm trying to save you." Natalie's cold eyes met the man's. "It's up to you to believe it or not, but if you keep bleeding, you'll eventually die here. I'd say it's best for you to think this through and not risk your life."

He had his hand around the woman's throat, but she was still calm and collected. It was something the man was surprised about.

After a moment of rumination, the man slowly released his grip and lowered his hand. "Can you really... treat me?"

“You’ll know.” Natalie put her hand on the man’s wrist again. Then, she frowned. Not only was the man suffering from blood loss, but it seemed like there was poison in him as well.

“You’ve been poisoned.” It was not a question but a statement.

The man stiffened, but still, he nodded. “Yes.”

“Don’t move,” Natalie sternly told him.

She then began to undo the buttons on the man’s clothes.

“W-What are you doing?” It seemed like the man never expected Natalie to do such a thing to him, for he began taking shorter and quicker breaths.

Natalie pursed her lips in silence. After giving him an eye roll, she ignored him. Then, she rolled up the hem of her pants to reveal her fair legs. In the next second, she took out a silver needle from the pouch she had around her calf which contained her crystal needles.

Before the man could respond to that, Natalie began inserting the needles in the acupoints on the man’s body swiftly and accurately.

Once she was done, she took out a small bottle from her pocket and shook out a pill. As she held it by the man’s lips, she said, “Are you going to eat it, or shall I keep it?”

When the pill was close to his nose, he could smell the strong scent of herbs coming from it. The man could tell that the pill was no ordinary medicine even by the scent alone. Once he thought about his situation and how he wanted to live, he told himself that the woman might be his only chance of coming out of the situation alive.

“I’ll eat it.”

Upon noticing the man lowering his guard, Natalie shoved the pill into his mouth.

Not long after he swallowed it, a warm current seemed to flow into the limbs of his numb and cold body. As a matter of fact, the injury he had on his abdomen even felt less painful.

Dozens of minutes later, Natalie began removing the needles.

As he had poison flowing in him, the tips of her crystal needles were black.

When the man saw Natalie’s swift actions and her attractive face, his heart skipped a beat.

“Thank you.”

Natalie then patted the dust off her clothes before standing up from the ground. “This is all I can help you with. As for whether or not you can flee from your nemesis will depend on your fate.”

The man smiled and nodded. “If I survive this, I definitely will return the favor. Can you tell me what your name is?”

“It isn’t important.” Natalie narrowed her eyes. “Saving you was just a coincidence; I never thought of asking you to return your favor. Even if a dog or a cat was lying here, I’ll still save its life. Furthermore, whether or not you survive this is entirely up to your own good luck, not me.”

Chapter 766 Liking Women

After finishing her sentence, Natalie walked away without another glance backwards.

Benjamin Miller's eyes lingered on her retreating back for a long while.

This woman is my savior. She has such a compassionate heart. Although she knew that it would be trouble... She still tried to save me even though it was not clear whether it could even be done. In fact, attempting to save me might have even brought her down with me... She is too smart, and she sees things clearly. That's why she saved my life but ignore everything else. If it weren't for the bad timing, I would really like to find out who she is, but just as she has said...

Benjamin swore to himself that if he survived, he would find a way to repay the woman's kindness.

Natalie made her way to the door.

After waiting for a long while, Ross and Yandel stopped their car by the side of the road. The three of them stood waiting by the door. They were just about to call Natalie when she appeared.

Lia quickly ran up to Natalie. She glimpsed a thin layer of sweat glistening on Natalie's forehead and asked, "Where did you go? Why are you sweating so much?"

Natalie did not want Lia to worry so, she merely replied lightly, "I saw an injured cat earlier so I stopped to help it."

"Luckily you're alright!" Lia exclaimed, patting her own chest. "You almost scared me to death! I thought you got kidnapped!"

"No, nothing like that happened! Don't get yourself all worked up!" Natalie said, patting Lia's cheeks gently.

Natalie pulled off her hyper-realistic mask. The face underneath was beautiful and enchanting. Lia felt her breath catch as she gazed at her.

"Um..."

Natalie was oblivious to Lia's reaction, but it did not escape Yandel. "Boss, please don't touch Lia's face like that ever again. She might start liking women because of you!"

Natalie was about to chastise Yandel for being silly when she noticed Lia turning visibly red. Natalie smiled sheepishly and retracted her hand.

Yandel and the others were unaware that the 'cat' that Natalie had rescued was actually a human being. They brought Natalie to a bar for some celebratory drinks.

At that moment, Gale was nearby, reporting everything to King.

"How did the mission go?" King asked.

"I shot a poison dart into Benjamin Millers' stomach but he managed to escape," Gale reported dutifully. "However, it's futile. No one can save him from the poison."

"Benjamin Millers must not be allowed to return to Loang alive," King ordered coldly.

“Yes, Sir.”

After they were done discussing Benjamin, Gale moved on to other items.

“King, why didn’t you allow me to get rid of Natalie as well? You asked me to spare Yara’s life too!”

“She is my secret weapon. I do not want her dead unless it is the last resort,” King replied. “This woman is very valuable and it would be a pity to lose her! Keep her alive. We can use her as bait!”

“King, if your secret weapon is difficult to control, it’s better to destroy it.” Gale countered.

“Control is subjective,” King interrupted Gale’s thoughts. “When she begs me for help, she will be easy to control. You don’t have to worry about anything else. Just do what I have asked to. You must not lay even a finger on her without my order.”

“Yes, I understand,” Gale replied obediently. He would not dare to disobey King.

At that moment, Yandel, with Natalie in the backseat, drove past Gale’s car.

Natalie glanced out of the window and caught sight of Gale’s silhouette. She did not recognize him, but she felt a cold shiver crawl down her spine at the murderous aura emanating from him.

Suddenly, Natalie had an uneasy feeling that she was in grave danger in Dellmoor.

Chapter 767 Get Rid Of Him

The four of them sat down in a bar. Yandel waved at a waiter and ordered him to bring out the bottle of fine wine that he had brought over earlier.

Not long after that, the waiter brought out the wine. However, instead of the usual glass goblets, the waiter brought with him small clay cups to serve the wine.

Yandel uncorked the wine and the air was immediately filled with the rich, sweet scent of the wine which smelled faintly of plum blossoms.

Yandel handed a cup to Natalie and said, “Boss, this is a very special wine that I’ve brought for you from Loang. You can’t get these in the market. It is made exclusively for the Loang royal family. I know you enjoy a good wine. I made a lot of effort to procure it for you.”

Yandel had never revealed his family background. However, Natalie had guessed that he was descended from a noble family of Loang.

Ross and Lia were surprised when they heard Yandel’s introduction of the wine.

“How did you manage to get this royal wine?” Lia’s eyes were wide in shock.

“I just remembered that you’re from Loang, right?” Ross suddenly asked Yandel.

Yandel nodded. He took a sip of the wine from his own cup. “Yes, I was, but that’s no longer my home. Now, home is wherever Boss is.”

Ross and Lia exchanged looks.

Whenever Natalie was not around, Yandel was quick and efficient in his work and life. However, in Natalie's presence, he was a different person.

In their memories, Yandel had never spoken about his own life. He acted as if Natalie and his work were his entire life.

A person would only act in this manner if he had been deeply hurt in his past.

They had all been hurt by their loved ones before, and they understood that it was better to not ask. So, none of them questioned Yandel any further.

Natalie raised her cup and said with a smile, "It was fate that brought us together, and I am blessed to be sitting here with all of you enjoying this cup of rare wine. Let's enjoy this moment. We will leave all of our troubles for tomorrow!"

It was rare indeed for them to have respite from the world.

Natalie's infectious good mood spread to the rest of them. Soon, they were all laughing and drinking merrily together.

The wine was good indeed, but they had only one bottle to share between the four of them.

After they finished the entire bottle, Yandel waved down a waiter and ordered him to bring out more wine.

Dream had not only turned the tables, but the company had also expanded massively. The four of them basked in the success. They happily made toasts and finished every last drop of all the bottles that Yandel had ordered.

Natalie was lying on the couch in the bar. The alcohol had turned her cheeks a blotchy red. She was still hugging a bottle of wine close to her.

At that moment, Natalie's phone started vibrating.

"Boss, your phone is ringing," Yandel called out to Natalie.

Natalie was confused in her drunken state. She ignored Yandel and closed her eyes.

Yandel, who had had a little too much to drink, did not even glance at the caller's name before answering the phone. "Hello, who's calling? The person that you want to speak to is sleeping next to me. I'll pass the message to her once she's awake..."

There was a deafening silence on the line once Yandel was finished speaking. He could feel the caller's frostiness even through the phone.

Yandel swallowed nervously. He could not even see the caller's face and yet, he felt as if a pair of eyes were glaring angrily at him.

"She's sleeping next to you?" a man's low voice asked.

Yandel recognized the voice as Samuel's. He was so frightened that he sobered up immediately. "S-Samuel Bowers?"

“Yandel, why don’t you repeat what you’ve just said to me?” Samuel asked murderously.

Yandel could hear the threat in his voice.

He felt as if a cold blade was pressed against his jugular and if he said one wrong word, he would bleed to death.

Chapter 769 Uncomfortable

A few days later, Diane, who was about to leave Chanaea, invited Natalie to an orphanage.

Natalie dressed casually in a pink top and a pair of jeans, and went to the orphanage.

Diane had already arrived by the time Natalie got there. She waved Natalie over when she saw her.

“Lady Diane,” Natalie greeted her politely.

Diane was pleased to see that Natalie was not wearing her hyper-realistic mask. “You are such a pretty lady. What a pity it is to cover it up with that mask. Don’t get me wrong; the mask is beautiful, but you don’t need to wear it anymore.”

Natalie knew that Diane found the mask repulsive. She smiled and said, “Okay, I’ll heed your advice.”

Natalie thought of the help that Diane had given her at Imperial Hotel and thanked her graciously. “Thank you so much for lending me your makeup and clothes at the hotel back then. I managed to escape a crisis. Otherwise, I would have been in a lot of trouble if I started trending.”

“It was no trouble, child!” Diane patted Natalie’s hand in a motherly fashion. “I saw the news. I wouldn’t have expected her to be your sister! How could she be so cruel to you? How did she even think of something so evil? Nobody would blame you for what happened to her! She deserves to suffer the consequences.”

Natalie was once hurt over what had happened with Yara, but now, all she felt was hatred and disappointment.

Diane stroked the back of Natalie’s hand gently. “After the whole Dream fiasco and the trouble with the press, Yohan and I kept an eye on the news. Your comeback was amazing! I was so impressed. That silly boy, Yohan... He wanted to give up, but... He really wants to forget you, but he can’t seem to...”

Natalie realized that Diane was about to get upset about Yohan and her again. She quickly put a stop to it. “Lady Diane, you don’t have to worry about him! He is still young and the world is so big. The first love may not be the last or the best. He is bound to meet a better person in the future!”

With those words, Natalie had firmly stated her disinterest in Yohan to Diane while still preserving their dignity.

In truth, it was not Yohan who could not forget Natalie, but rather, it was Diane who did not want to lose Natalie as a daughter-in-law.

It only Samuel wasn’t as perfect! Diane thought to herself. She did not mind that Natalie already had a child of her own.

Natalie felt uncomfortable with their topic of discussion and hurried to change the subject. "Let's not talk about this, Lady Diane. Didn't you invite me here to check out how the charity funds had been used by the orphanage? Let's look into it."

Diane calmed herself down and nodded. "Okay, let's do that."

The director of the orphanage led Diane and Natalie around the ground. The ladies carefully made enquiries to ensure that the funds raised at the last charity dinner had been used for the education and care of the children.

The director was a man in his fifties with a generous smile and big heart for children.

Through his stories, the ladies understood the loneliness and helplessness of the children under his care. They also saw that the charity funds had been used to build a library, employ more teachers, improve the food quality and much more.

Diane and Natalie walked around the orphanage for a long time, but neither of them felt tired.

The director was sincerely grateful for Diane's patronage. The children, too, had prepared a special performance to show their appreciation to Diane.

The performance ran for an hour. Diane sat and watched the entire show earnestly. Natalie, however, needed to use the washroom. She slipped out of the hall quietly during the show.

Outside the hall, she caught sight of a pair of girl about eight or nine years old who were tugging unkindly on a younger girl's hair.

"What's the matter? Cat got your tongue? Why aren't you saying anything?" one of the girls taunted viciously.

"You're mute, you're a mute girl!" the other girl sang cruelly in a sing-song voice.

Natalie frowned in displeasure. So young and already bullying! She could not help stepping forward and calling out, "Stop! What are you two doing?"

Chapter 770 The Orphan

The two older children fled in fright when they saw Natalie coming out to stop them.

Natalie squatted beside the little mute girl instead of going after the two children. "Are you all right, child?"

The little girl slowly lowered her hands as her eyes were focused warily on Natalie.

Though her face looked a little gray from being covered in grime, her jet-black eyes were as startlingly clear as obsidian. Natalie could not help but notice that her cheekbones were unusually prominent for her age.

She's going to be a beauty when she grows up. Look at me being jealous of a five-year-old little girl! She must have been picked on because of her inability to speak, and because she's so pretty.

Natalie wanted to check if the little girl was hard of hearing. "Can you hear me?"

After a few seconds, the little girl nodded.

Natalie felt sorry that the little girl had to put on such stubborn defiance in fending for herself. Her mother would feel awful if she knew that her daughter was being bullied by the older children here.

Unable to simply abandon the child, she held out her hand. "Your face is a little dusty. Can I take you to the washroom?"

The little girl hesitated for a second before taking Natalie's offered hand.

Delighted by the sensation of the soft little hand inside her own, Natalie gave it a reassuring little squeeze and led her to the bathroom.

First, Natalie guided the girl to wash her hands with soap while she dabbed her face with a moistened piece of tissue from her pocket.

The whole operation was carried out with great care.

The little girl stood still and allowed Natalie to wipe her face, but the piercing pair of black eyes never left her. Natalie's maternal instinct reminded the girl forcibly of her own deceased mother.

Natalie did not notice the girl's start of surprise as she wiped her face clean.

"All done!"

"T-thank you," the little girl stammered.

"You can talk?" Natalie's eyes widened in shock. "Why do they say you are mute?"

"I don't want to talk to them," the girl said softly. "They would pick on me even if I did. Ever since Mommy left, no one would protect me."

Natalie's heart wrenched painfully at her words.

What a brave little girl. Though she looks to be around Sophie's age, her precocious and stubborn nature makes her seem much older. She did not even shed a single tear while facing the two bullies.

"Have you tried fighting back?" Natalie asked in spite of herself.

"I can't." The little girl lowered her head. "The only way I can only protect myself is to grow up big and strong as soon as possible."

Natalie stroked her petite cheeks and smiled. "You are already very brave."

The little girl nodded. "I hope so. I promised Mommy that I'll be brave. She's turned into a star in the sky, you know. She visits me sometimes when it's a clear night. I couldn't let her down knowing that she's watching over me."

Natalie understood at once.

Poor girl! She's not abandoned, after all. Her mother has passed away!

Natalie said goodbye to the little girl and went back into the theater for the children's performance.

Diane turned her head at her friend's return. "What took you so long?"

"Something came up." Though she tried her best to settle down, Natalie could not stop thinking about the orphan.

There's no use mulling over it now. I'll think about it when the show is over.

As one of the sponsors, Diane went up to the center of the stage to receive flowers from children in accordance with the process.

"Dream is the biggest contributor to this campaign, Natalie," Diane said. "Would you join us on stage to accept the children's gesture of gratitude?"

Natalie shook her head. "No, thank you. I really haven't done much. Maybe another time."

With a tactful nod, Diane went up on stage to accept the children's flowers on her own to the applause of the director and the staff of the orphanage.

Though Natalie enjoyed herself in the warm and wholesome atmosphere of the charity, she could not forget those clear and strong-willed eyes.

Without informing Diane, Natalie got up and left the theater quietly in search of the little girl.

To her surprise, Natalie found the girl at the entrance of the theater where she had left her.

I am sure that this was where we said goodbye. Looks like she couldn't get me out of her head too.