

Happiness 96-105

Chapter 96

“Boss, what happened to your lips?” Yandel’s voice trembled as he continued, “Tell me, which b*stard did this to you? I’ll tear him apart right now!”

Although Ross was not as agitated as Yandel, his expression turned as cold as ice.

Natalie was looking at both of them in a daze.

Since both men were around thirty years old, they could certainly guess why Natalie’s lips were swollen.

“Yandel, I’ve taken care of the matter,” Natalie said calmly.

“Boss, did he lose both his legs?” Yandel clenched his teeth in a rage. “If he has lost both his legs now, I’ll cripple his third leg!”

Natalie lifted her gaze and glanced at Yandel. “Yandel, I said I’ve taken care of it.”

Ross then grabbed Yandel’s shoulder as he chimed in, “She said she has taken care of the issue. Don’t get involved.”

After listening to Ross’ advice, Yandel kept his mouth shut about the matter. However, he still could not move on from it.

F*ck!

Deep down, Natalie was a saint to him. Knowing that a commoner had degraded Natalie, it was a miracle that Yandel could still keep calm and control his temper.

After that short interlude, all of them had lost the mood to continue drinking and merrymaking

The three of them left KINGS bar after Yandel paid the bill.

Since all of them had ingested some alcohol, Yandel glanced at Ross before he said, "Ross, you'll need to wait here while I send someone to pick you up. I'll send Boss back with my car."

"Sure. Take care of her."

"Of course."

Natalie and Yandel stood at the entrance of the bar as they waited for their driver to bring the car over.

At that moment, Natalie was feeling dizzy as the effects of alcohol had just kicked in.

Yandel was the person she trusted the most. Moreover, she believed that he was not interested in her at all. That was why when she felt dizzy, she instinctively tugged at his arm.

"I need to hold something."

"Hold me." While suffering a headache, Yandel said, "Boss, it's all my fault. I shouldn't have let you drink so much alcohol."

"Why are you apologizing? I thought we were close to each other?"

"Yes! You'll always be my boss."

"Okay... Although Natalie knew that she was about to lose consciousness because of the alcohol, she licked her lips and added, "So, you'd better bring me along if there's good booze next time."

Having heard that, Yandel was at a loss for words.

Seeing Natalie could not even stand straight, he wrapped his arm around her shoulders after he mumbled, "I'm not taking advantage of you."

Right at that moment, Samuel and Steven walked out of the KINGS bar.

Samuel's injured hand was covered, but there were some bloodstains on the handkerchief.

His gaze then fell upon the slim figure.

Apart from Natalie, Samuel was also looking at the man who had his arm around her.

That was when he recalled Natalie mentioning that she had a boyfriend. Samuel's pupils contracted as a cold look flashed across his eyes.

Beside him, Steven glanced at him. He could immediately sense the murderous aura from Samuel's eyes. Instinctively, he looked in the direction where Natalie and Yandel were standing at.

He was taken aback by the sight.

This woman... Isn't she the woman who Sam kissed on the couch just now? Is she cheating on Sam?

Just as Steven was secretly lamenting about what an unlucky day he was having, Samuel was already walking toward Natalie and Yandel.

While Natalie was still feeling dizzy, she suddenly sensed that the atmosphere had become tense.

She slowly opened her eyes and was met by a man's cold gaze staring right at her.

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When Natalie saw a hint of anger in the pair of eyes, she could feel her heart sink.

Almost simultaneously, she shifted her gaze away guiltily.

Yet, she suddenly realized something.

Why should I feel guilty? Why is he looking like I've done something wrong? Why is he making me feel like I'm caught in the act?

With that thought, Natalie's eyes lit up, and she gripped Yandel's arm.

The latter's body immediately stiffened after Natalie held his arm. He glanced at her as his eyelids twitched.

Boss is such a stunningly beautiful woman. Why am I feeling so terrified that she's throwing herself at me now?

Just when Yandel was about to question Natalie, the latter glared at him as a hint for him to keep quiet. Thus, Yandel could only stand still in silence. He was standing so stiffly that he looked like a pillar.

Natalie felt extremely uncomfortable as Samuel continued to stare at her. She just wanted to leave that place immediately.

"Dear, I feel so dizzy..." Natalie was frustrated as she added, "When is the driver going to arrive? We've waited for so long."

When Yandel heard Natalie calling him "Dear", he was so shocked that he almost fainted.

Yet, he did not dare to ask anything. He replied, "He's coming soon. Hold on a little longer."

Right at that moment, Yandel's eyes finally came in contact with Samuel's terrifying

stare.

In fact, Yandel had heard about the Bowers family, but he did not realize that the

man in front of him now was actually Samuel Bowers.

This man's gaze is so terrifying.

Although Yandel was the CEO of Dream Company, the presence of this member of the Bowers family intimidated him greatly as they both stared at each other.

Samuel finally asked, "Is he your boyfriend?"

"Yes!" Natalie narrowed her eyes as she replied, "He's really thoughtful, right? Affectionate pretty boys are all the rage right now."

Yandel was rendered speechless.

Pretty boy? Who? Me?

Just as Yandel was still confused, he felt a sudden pain on his arm from being clenched on. He quickly returned to his senses and said, "Yes. I'm her most loyal pretty boy."

Samuel's lips turned pale as he said, "Seems average."

Natalie was stunned before she refuted, "I'm happy with him."

Right at that moment, Yandel's Maybach came to a halt in front of KINGS bar. That marked the end of the silent war between the three of them.

Yandel opened the back door of his car before he helped Natalie get in.

Although Samuel did not move an inch, his gaze was locked on Natalie and Yandel. His fists were tightly clenched. Slowly, his handkerchief was completely drenched with blood.

Natalie did not look at Samuel, even though she knew that the latter was still staring

at her.

Sc*m. What a big liar. If I didn't put on a different mask, I wouldn't even see his true face. I almost fell into his trap... Luckily it wasn't too late for me to find out.

The Maybach disappeared into the dark night.

Then, Steven finally walked to Samuel and asked, "Sam, what's going on with this woman? She has a boyfriend, but why... Is she cheating on you? If she dares to do that, I'll not let her off the hook.",

"Don't you dare hurt her." Samuel gave Steven a cold glare.

Steven choked when he saw Samuel's reaction.

"Sam, she did this to you—"

"You think that's her boyfriend?" Samuel smirked as he questioned Steven.

"Is he not?"

"She's putting on an act so I would give up on her." Samuel narrowed his eyes.

Boyfriend? If she really had one, she wouldn't be that bad at kissing. If that man was really her boyfriend, I would not have let him take her away right in front of me.

Chapter 98

In the Maybach, Natalie's eyes were half-lidded as she kept her gaze low.

“Boss, who’s the man—” Yandel asked curiously.

“Samuel Bowers.” A cold look filled Natalie’s eyes as she continued, “He’s the head of the Bowers family. The CEO of Centurion Group.”

Having heard that, Yandel was totally stunned.

“S—Samuel Bowers? The Bowers family – the most powerful family of Chanaea?” Yandel swallowed a lump in disbelief before he continued, “I knew he was no ordinary man. He was glaring at me like he wanted to rip my skin off and swallow me whole!”

“Don’t worry. You’re too big to be swallowed.”

“Boss, why did you tell him that I was your boyfriend?” Yandel suddenly realized something before he asked, “Is he the one who forced a kiss on you in the bar earlier?”

Natalie’s eyes were filled with mixed emotions. “I remember you were saying that you would cripple that man’s third leg...”

Recalling Samuel’s ruthless aura, Yandel chuckled and said, “Sigh. I’m drunk. I don’t remember anything.”

Natalie pursed her lips as she looked at the scenery outside the window.

She knew well Samuel was far more capable than her, let alone Yandel.

Although she had founded Dream Company, and her company had improved at an unbelievable pace over the years, it could not be compared to the Bowers family because they had built their power and financial prowess for decades now.

However, Natalie would never admit defeat.

She was determined to turn Dream Company into a business empire, just like Centurion Group.

In fact, she did not want anything from Samuel. He should just give all his love to Yara!

Late at night, Steven was about to call the doctor, Henson Quinn, for him to drop by the Bowers residence. However, Samuel managed to stop him in time.

“Sam, your hand is still bleeding.”

“It’s just a minor injury,” Samuel said calmly. “Tell Gavin to get the medical kit. Just help me treat the wound.”

When Steven was about to refute, he was taken aback by Samuel’s glare.

He knew that Samuel was annoyed at him for rambling.

Thus, Steven swallowed his worries as he started to unwrap the handkerchief around Samuel’s hand.

Fresh blood was still slowly gushing out of the wound. The skin at the area was a bloody mess now.

Although Steven was handling the injury gently, he could not avoid touching the wound. However, Samuel seemed to not feel any pain. He was sitting still expressionlessly.

If Steven did not see it himself, he could not imagine Samuel would lose control over a woman like that.

Who is that woman? How is she driving Sam crazy like that?

“It’s done.”

“Okay.” Samuel lifted his gaze and added, “It’s getting late. You should get home.”

Steven knew that Samuel was showing him the door. After he secretly let out the softest of sighs, he left the Bowers residence.

As Steven had left, Samuel narrowed his eyes and asked, "How long are you going to hide and look at me from there?"

Then, Sophia finally appeared from behind a potted plant in the corridor. She was wearing pink pajamas as she walked out with a panda plushy in her arms.

Her cheeks appeared pink while her big round eyes looked clear.

"Sophia, come here."

Sophia walked to Samuel and instantly saw the wound on his hand.

After putting down her panda plushy, she tugged at Samuel's arm and blew on his wound. Her eyes were reddened.

Phew!

Looking at the thoughtful little girl, Samuel felt warmth bloom in his heart.

However, when he looked at the side of Sophia's face, he could not help but think about that woman.

Chapter 99

Sophia puffed up her cheeks as she blew on Samuel's wound.

After that, she lifted her face and looked at Samuel, eyes brimming with tears. "It hurts..."

"It doesn't. I've made you worry."

Samuel picked Sophia up and caressed her hair gently.

Sophia's body was extremely soft. She wrapped her arms around Samuel's neck and hugged him in distress.

Sophia looks so much like that woman. But, why does that woman refuse to get close to me? She even thinks I'm dirty, for goodness sake.

"Sophia, why doesn't she feel distress for me like you do?"

She?

Samuel did not mention who he was talking about, but Sophia could tell that it was Natalie.

What happened between Natalie and Daddy?

Sophia was happy that Natalie treated her well.

However, she noticed that the latter liked her and Franklin, but disliked her father.

At that thought, Sophia became upset.

She wanted Natalie to become her mother, and wished that the latter could be with Samuel

Although Samuel never showed that he liked Natalie, Sophia could tell that he loved Natalie dearly.

Back then, even though Daddy stayed with Franklin and me, he rarely smiled. Ever since Natalie appeared, I feel that Daddy is not as cold as before anymore. I'm starting to see the warmth in his eyes.

"M-Mommy will..." Sophia tightened her arms around Samuel's neck as she stammered, "L-Like... You..."

Having heard that, Samuel smiled faintly.

“I made a mistake and missed the chance to be with her a long time ago.” He paused and added, “This time, I will not let her leave us again.”

The next day, Sophia did not see Samuel at the dining table.

She was swinging her legs while looking around for her father.

“Ms. Sophia, are you looking for Mr. Samuel? He has left for work,” Gavin said with a polite smile.

Sophia then nodded.

Daddy bled so much. Why did he go to work?

She still remembered the grim look in Samuel’s eyes when he talked about Natalie.

No! Daddy likes Natalie so much. I have to help him.

With that idea, she wanted to take action right away. However, Franklin was busy preparing for his piano competition. He stayed out for most of the day, only returning around his bedtime.

Therefore, she made up her mind.

Ill do this on my own!

In a blink of an eye, it was already afternoon.

Xavian finally returned home from summer camp.

While he was humming a song as he entered the compound, he saw a little girl in a puffy purple dress roaming in front of the entrance to his house.

Not far away, there were two middle-aged men staring at her maliciously. Those men looked like gangsters.

Xavian furrowed his brows at the sight.

Afraid that the girl might be in danger, Xavian quickly walked over to her and pulled her before they ran toward a crowded place.

Sophia finally noticed him, but she had to run with Xavian.

When they arrived in front of a convenience store which was packed with people, Xavian finally let go of Sophia's hand.

Since both of them had short legs, they were panting heavily after running so much.

The next moment, they immediately recognized each other when their eyes met.

"You..."

"Y-You..."

Looking at the little girl who clung to his mother in the airport, Xavian frowned.

"You... What are you doing roaming around my house? Don't tell me that you're looking for my mom," Xavian asked impolitely.

Xavian was unhappy that Clayton was stealing his mother away from him. Now, even an unrelated child is trying to steal Mommy away?

Sophia nodded her head repeatedly as she plastered a sweet smile on her face.

Chapter 100

When Xavian was about to yell at Sophia, he saw the adorable smile on her face. He realized the anger in him instantly disappeared.

“When you came out... Did you tell your dad and mom? They would be worried if they can’t find you,” Xavian softened his voice as he asked.

Sophia sneaked out to come and look for Natalie.

She had been to Natalie’s house once with Franklin, but she could not remember the exact location of Natalie’s house. Therefore, she could only roam around the area, hoping to see Natalie when she returned home.

Now that Sophia had met Xavian, she knew that she would be able to see Natalie if she followed him home.

With that thought, she tugged Xavian’s hand and stared at him pitifully.

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“... W-want... to see... Natalie...”

“She’s my mommy.” Xavian raised an eyebrow and added, “I won’t share my mommy with you even if you whine here. It won’t work on me. There’s already another person who’s stealing my mommy in my home. Stop making things worse for me.”

“X-Xavian...”

Xavian was younger than Clayton, so Clayton was his elder brother.

He always wished that Natalie had given birth to a little sister instead of Clayton, who was such a sly person.

When Sophia called him by his name, it completely melted his heart.

“W–What did you call me?”

Sophia smiled at Xavian and replied, “Xavian...”

Even though her voice sounded sweet, the smile on her face appeared sweeter. Xavian smiled as well after looking at her expression.

He tried to hide the smile on his face before he said, “I heard your stomach growling. You must be hungry. I’ll buy you something to eat at the convenience store.”

“Okay.”

“Don’t think that whining works. I just don’t want to see you starve.”

“Okay.”

However, Xavian’s speech contradicted his actions. He bought plenty of food for Sophia in the convenience store.

Inexplicably, Xavian liked Sophia. Even though he did not want her to steal his mother from him, he could not stop himself from doting on the little girl who kept stammering

After Natalie had finished treating Yana and left the Beckers residence, she received a phone call.

Samuel’s name appeared on her phone screen.

Upon giving it a glance, she immediately ended the call.

How dare this man call me shamelessly after what he did to me last night? Forget it! Your true intentions were revealed last night!

Even though the line was cut off, Samuel did not give up. He kept calling again and again.

Natalie deliberately refused to answer a single one.

Finally, she scoffed before she answered the call.

She yelled into the phone, "Samuel Bowers, don't you understand? I've received money from your woman and promised that I would stay away from you! I have to keep my word because I've taken the money! Stop making things difficult for me!"

"Sophia is missing."

Natalie was stunned upon hearing that, but another thought appeared.

Why would Sophia be missing all of a sudden? Also, this man is rich and powerful. Why would he need me to find a little girl?

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"If she's missing, then look for her." Natalie bit her lip and retorted, "Why are telling me about it? If you can't find her, then how would you expect me to find her?"

"You're not worried?"

Clearly, Natalie was extremely anxious.

She liked Sophia ever since she first met her.

However, she knew that she was not Sophia's mother, so she could not stay by her side no matter how much she liked her.

"Samuel Bowers, she's your daughter. You're supposed to be the worried one, not me," Natalie said calmly.

Chapter 101

"Is that how you truly feel?"

Natalie clenched her phone as she answered coldly, "Why would I lie to you? Samuel Bowers, who do you think you are? Why would I be pretentious in front of you?"

Knowing that Sophia was missing, Natalie began to panic.

However, she did not want Samuel to see it.

"Hurry up and look for Sophia. I'm busy. I don't have the time to talk to you."

Upon finishing speaking, Natalie hung up the phone.

She was biting on her lip so hard that it started to bleed, but she did not even notice

it.

Sophia is so young. Her aphasia condition has just slightly improved. Where could she go? Moreover, the Bower family attracts so much attention. Their enemies can't do anything to harm the brothers. What if they lay their hands on Sophia instead?

The more Natalie thought about it, the more miserable she felt

Without any hesitation, she called Yandel.

“Yandel, I need your help locating a girl. I’ll send you her information and photo later. You have to find her whereabouts in a couple of hours.”

“Boss, who’s this girl?”

“I don’t have the time to explain. Also, give Jerome a call for help as well.”

“You’re going to make Jerome pay back the favor just like this? This is too-”

While Yandel was complaining, Natalie ignored him and hung up the call.

She always knew that Jerome was interested in her.

That was why she had never contacted him. She did not want to take advantage of his feelings.

However, nothing was more important than ensuring Sophia’s safety now.

After sending the information and photo, Natalie quickly rushed home. She did not find Sophia there.

Where did Sophia go? Did she run away from home? Was she kidnapped?

Meanwhile, in the convenience store, Xavian tore open the packaging of the snack before giving it to Sophia.

The latter then started eating slowly. She did not cause a mess while eating her snack.

As Xavian watched her eat, he became more fond of her. Deep down, he wanted Natalie to give birth to a younger sister who looked exactly like Sophia.

After Sophia finished eating, Xavian held her hand.

“Where do you live? I’ll take you home.”

Sophia quickly shook her head and said adamantly, “N-Natalie...”

Xavian did not expect her to be still thinking about Natalie after she was fed.

He sighed and replied, “Let’s go. I’ll bring you to my house.”

With a pair of teary eyes, Sophia said, “T-Thank.. you... X-Xavian...”

“Okay.”

Xavian held Sophia’s hand as both of them walked toward the compound.

However, several steps later, Xavian noticed that the two gangsters were still following them from behind.

Since the convenience store was packed with people, they did not dare to take make a move on the children yet.

Clearly, the men were waiting for Xavian and Sophia to be alone.

They had to walk through a tree-lined road in order to get back to Xavian’s house. Both sides of the road were planted with sycamore trees. At that moment, not a

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single person was seen on the entire street.

The two men were still following behind them.

At that moment, even Sophia had noticed the sound of footsteps behind them. There was a hint of worry on her face.

“S-Someone.

Xavian held Sophia’s hand tighter as he whispered, “I’ll count to three. Don’t look back. Just keep running with me. One. Two. Three.”

On the count of three, Xavian started running with Sophia while he held her hand.

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When the men saw the kids running, they quickened their pace.

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Not only that the children’s legs were short, but there were also limits to their stamina.

Sca

They were not as lucky as the previous time. One of the men who had a scar on his face came to a halt in front of them.

“Why are you running? You think you can run away from us with those short legs of

yours?”

Chapter 102

Despite being helpless, Xavian protectively nudged Sophia to stand behind him.

His heart thumped for a moment. Even so, he did not show a single trace of his anxiety in front of the terrified Sophia.

He mustered all his courage before locking eyes with the man who had a scar on his face. "We're mere children. Why are you kidnapping us?"

"Please. Who do you think you are?" The scar-faced man sarcastically said while scratching his chin. His gaze then swept past Xavian and landed on Sophia. "Sweet little Sophia Bowers over there is the one we want, not you. The Bowers family will have no choice but to fulfil our demands if we hold her captive."

The Bowers family? Sophia?

The pieces finally clicked together in Xavian's mind as he now understood what was happening

This little girl standing behind me is Samuel's daughter.

"S-Scared." Tears poured from Sophia's eyes as her tiny body trembled fervently.

She had been highly guarded by the Bowers family her entire life.

There were times when she tried to sneak out for fun in the past. That led to two outcomes; someone would catch her right before she could leave her home, or Franklin would get assigned to accompany her.

Today was her first time successfully sneaking out alone to find Natalie. Unfortunately, she failed to find the latter and had somehow ended up in the clutches of the evil scar-faced man.

The man briskly grabbed Xavian's shoulder as if he were toying with a vulnerable ant.

To that, Xavian retaliated. He grabbed the man's arm and bit down hard, leaving two jagged rows of bloodied teeth marks.

“How dare you bite me, you rabid dog? I’ll finish you off here and now!” The scar

faced man broke free of Xavian and flung the latter onto the ground.

As Xavian’s body crashed landed, he let out a series of loud gasps. It felt as if all his bones had snapped at once.

No! I can’t give up now!

He wiped the blood from the corner of his mouth while clambering onto his feet to protect Sophia.

Before he could do anything, a hand patted his shoulder as a gentle voice spoke. “Hang on, Sweetheart. I have a task for you.”

A wave of relief and joy surged through Xavian as soon as he heard that.

“Mommy, you’re here!”

“No child should have to witness a vicious fight,” Natalie stated with a piercing, cold gaze. “Xavian, I want you to take Sophia over to that corner and cover her eyes. Don’t forget to close your eyes too. You guys aren’t allowed to look without my permission, got it?”

“But-”

“Sweetheart, when has Mommy ever let you down?”

“I... I understand.”

“Good.”

At once, Xavian spun on his heels to calm and help Sophia settle in the corner. Meanwhile, Natalie turned toward the two middle-aged men in front of her.

She had asked Yandel and Jerome to track down Sophia earlier but worried that Sophia would come looking for her. Hence, she decided to look around her neighborhood for good measure.

Because of that, she chanced upon her son and Sophia, who got picked on by two men.

Blurry anger shrouded Natalie's vision. Any harm done to her son was enough to

strike a nerve in her. However, a fit of scorching rage seethed from her at that moment as she witnessed the men threatening both Xavian and Sophia.

"You should mind your own business, lady. Hand over Sophia." The scar-faced man spoke with a half-smile while taking a knife out of his pocket. "Obey me, and I'll let you walk away unharmed."

"Hand her over to you? Pfft. In your dreams!"

"How dare you!" Feeling provoked by Natalie's sharp retort, the man bolted over and tried to stab her

Natalie dodged sideways in a flash, narrowly escaping the blunt edge of his knife before landing a forceful jab on the man's abdomen.

Utter shock flashed on the man's face. He had not expected Natalie to dodge his attack with such grace and skill. Annoyed, he barked at his accomplice, "What the f*ck are you standing around for? Hurry up and finish her off this instant!"

It was evident that someone had paid the two men to kidnap Sophia as they were willing to use any means necessary.

They quickly drew their knives and surrounded Natalie.

The men continuously attacked her for some time. It did not take long before she grew weary, and her dodging speed slowed down.

Eventually, the knife of the scar-faced man made a deep cut on Natalie's arm.

Not wanting the children to worry, she bit her lip and continued fighting off the men without making a sound.

A second cut soon formed on Natalie's arm.

Then, one of the men managed to slash another cut on her upper arm.

Thick, warm blood began to ooze from each cut. A sharp stinging pierced through Natalie's entire arm, rendering her weak and unable to exert any strength.

It was then that a Hummer sped over to the scene.

A tall figure got out of the driver's seat. In an instant, a hostile aura emanated into the space around them.

Chapter 103

Sheer panic arose in Natalie as she could not guarantee the safety of Sophia and Xavian now that she had gotten hurt. However, a flicker of hope lit in her eyes upon witnessing Samuel's appearance.

Relief poured over Natalie as she no longer resisted her body's pains. At that moment, she allowed the discomfort of her wounds to take over her consciousness.

Darn, these cuts really do pack quite a punch...

The two men had not realized the figure was Samuel. After turning around to lock gazes with him, their faces instantly twisted into expressions of shock and terror

The scar-faced man shared a knowing look with his accomplice and muttered, "Let's get out of here!"

They turned around quickly, wanting to escape.

The two barely took a few steps before Samuel brought them to the ground with a swift leg sweep.

At that, the scar-faced man gripped his knife tightly. He wanted to get up and fight back but could not as his wrist got ruthlessly stepped on by a pair of expensive leather shoes.

"Ahhhh!" The man cried out in agony. His face writhed almost to the point of distortion.

Crack! Some seconds passed before his wrist bone got utterly crushed, and he dropped his knife.

"M-My hand!" The scar-faced man shrieked while quivering in pain.

All traces of color drained from his face. Even his arm turned to a ghastly white.

Meanwhile, the accomplice pissed his pants in fear while begging for mercy. "We... We were only following orders. Technically, we didn't harm Sophia! Only that random ugly woman got hurt. Please have mercy on me!"

Samuel's eyes narrowed to vicious slits.

This punk has got some nerve! Sophia is my daughter, and Natalie is my beloved. How dare he hurt and offend the two most precious women in my life! He'll pay dearly for crossing me. I'm going to make him regret the day he was born.

"How about no?" With that, Samuel crushed the accomplice's wrist.

Billy brought some other subordinates of the Bowers family with him to the scene sometime later.

“Apologies for being late, Sir...” Billy said in a low voice.

“Bring these two men with you for interrogation. I want to know who sent them here to kidnap Sophia.” Samuel’s brows drew close as he continued with a hint of malice in his tone, “Once you extract the information, do treat them well and show them how hospitable we, Bowers, can be.”

Billy had served Samuel for a long time; he had seen the numerous torturing methods Samuel employed when dealing with enemies.

However, this was the first time that Billy saw Samuel this enraged.

Even so, he kept quiet and responded with a simple, “I understand, Sir.”

The two men had passed out on the ground due to the excruciating pain they felt. Hence, Billy and the other subordinates lugged the men onto a car’s trunk as if the two were mere logs.

Samuel did not approach Xavian and Sophia first. Instead, he rushed over to Natalie’s side.

He asked, “Are you all right?”

Natalie felt relieved earlier when she saw Samuel. Yet, now that the situation got resolved, she had mixed feelings and decided to shove Samuel away.

“I’m fine,” she replied.

“You’re bleeding profusely right now. How is that fine?” Samuel refused to let Natalie turn him away. He persisted, “Why are you like this? How far must it go before you’re willing to admit that you’re hurt and that you need help?”

Wrath gleamed in Samuel’s dark gaze at once.

It was the first time Natalie saw Samuel in such a furious state.

An ache throbbled in her chest as she recalled the incident that happened last night.

The woman that Samuel kissed yesterday was indeed Natalie herself.

However, she was wearing her hyper-realistic mask, so there was no way that Samuel could recognize her.

Natalie clenched her jaw bitterly at the thought of how Samuel flirted with her that night while thinking she was a different person.

She covered her bleeding arm but could not conceal her temper in front of Samuel's nagging

Eventually, she gave in to her anger and snapped, "Do you not understand a word I'm saying, Samuel Bowers? I already told you that I accepted ten million from Yara under the condition that I must disappear from your life. You don't have to concern yourself with my affairs. It doesn't matter if I'm bleeding to my death because my life has nothing to do with you anymore!"

Chapter 104

Samuel was worried about Natalie's injury. Never in a million years did he expect her to refuse his help so coldly.

Nevertheless, his arm snaked under Natalie's knee and lifted her in a bridal carry before walking toward his car.

"Samuel Bowers! Let me go right now! Hey! Are you even listening to what I'm saying? You jerk! You clearly hear me screaming in your ear, so why are you pretending not to understand?"

Samuel cast a casual glance at Natalie. "So what if you agreed to stay away from me? You may have made that promise to Yara, but I didn't promise her anything."

Upon hearing that bold statement, Natalie was so surprised that she was at a loss for words.

“You-”

“Think of it as me forcing you to stay in my life. Don’t worry. I’ll bear the consequences for doing so.” Samuel’s eyes shined brightly with hope. He then continued, “Now, be a good girl and stay still in my arms. You’ll lose more blood if you keep wiggling around, and I can assure you that losing blood will worsen your suffering during the recovery process.”

Natalie was used to getting injured.

Even so, she could not help but fall for his kind gesture.

At the same time, she was annoyed at herself for having mixed feelings; she had already decided to cut ties with Samuel, yet she still yearned for his care.

“Don’t order me around with that mocking tone of yours!” she eventually scoffed.

“Save all that anger for after you recover. You can yell and hit me then, but for now...” Samuel then glanced down at her, his gaze soft with affection as he spoke with a low and gentle voice. “Please don’t resist me. I’m worried about you...”

A lump lodged at the back of Natalie’s throat.

I’ve made a lot of harsh remarks toward him. Still, why is he not giving up on me? Why is it that even though he shares a complicated relationship with Yara, I still feel like he only cares about me?

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She pondered while opening the car door. It was then that a different thought struck her mind. “Wait a minute. Where’s Sophia? And where’s my little one? Where’s Xavian-”

“Relax. The kids will be fine now that Billy is around to look after them,” Samuel reassured.

Natalie lightly nibbled her lower lip after hearing that.

At last, there was no reason for her to refuse Samuel's help. She let go of her hand and allowed him to carry her onto the passenger seat.

Samuel promptly leaned over to fasten the seat belt for Natalie, making sure to avoid her wounds.

He moved with great caution like he was handling the world's most delicate gem.

Natalie obediently sat still while fixating on the man who did all this for her.

Am I hallucinating? When will this seemingly perfect dream end?

Samuel gave one last assuring glance at Natalie before heading to the driver's seat.

He kept silent throughout the drive but accelerated as he wanted to have Natalie's wounds treated quickly.

In less than ten minutes, his Hummer pulled up at the entrance of a private hospital.

When getting out of the car, Samuel carried her once more.

"You do know that only my arms got injured, right? My legs are fine..."

"I know." A mischievous glint flitted past Samuel's eyes as he went on. "But I want to hold you, so quit moving around and worsening your wounds, or I'll kiss you in public."

Natalie froze. "Y-You..."

“You’re more than welcome to test the waters if you don’t believe that I’ll actually kiss you.”

Of course, Natalie did not dare to challenge him on this matter. So, she could only compromise.

Even though blood gushed from many open wounds on her arm, she felt comfortable and safe in Samuel’s warm embrace.

At the emergency room, the doctor used a pair of scissors to cut open Natalie’s sleeve so he could treat her wounds.

Three jagged cuts trailed at different areas of her arm. Each had slashed into her pale skin varying depths, and they had not stopped bleeding.

Her now clotted blood clumped parts of her flesh and tattered skin together into a goeey mess.

“Miss, I’m afraid you’ll need stitches to close these wounds.”

“Alright. Go ahead, doctor.”

As the doctor cleaned and stitched the cuts on Natalie’s arm, he was surprised to see how the latter had not made a sound or even flinched once.

He raised his eyes and looked at Natalie, curious about how high her pain tolerance was.

It was not long before Natalie noticed the doctor’s confusion and spoke. “I’ve suffered from injuries that are far worse than this, so I don’t really feel much pain as you’re stitching me up...”

Chapter 105

The doctor fell silent for a moment.

This girl is probably only in her twenties. I wonder what kind of trauma she has experienced to dismiss her current pain with such ease...

Samuel curled his fists as he stared at Natalie's bloodied arm.

Three cuts... God knows how long these three scars will remain on her arm. Hell, they might not ever heal. For every wound and pain inflicted on Natalie, I will make sure to return the favor to those two scumbags by the millions! They'll regret ever crossing me, this I swear.

The doctor eventually fixed Natalie up and gave her some advice on caring for her stitches. He then turned to Samuel and reminded, "Please take good care of your girlfriend."

"Doctor, you've misunderstood. He's not."

Before Natalie could finish speaking, Samuel hopped in to interject, "I will. Thank you so much, doctor."

He then carried her out of the emergency room and into a private ward as if they were a loving couple.

Along the way, Natalie emphasized aloud, "I am not your girlfriend."

"Mm-hmm."

"Since you're aware that we aren't a couple, why didn't you correct the doctor earlier?"

At that, Samuel stopped in his steps to gaze adoringly at Natalie's face. "Because you will eventually become my woman. I am merely exercising my rights early."

"You-" Natalie shot him a glare.

"Don't use your deal with Yara as an excuse to avoid me." Samuel locked eyes with her and added in a firm tone, "No one can threaten me except you. You're the one person who has a hold on me."

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Chapter 105

This man is so charming whenever he gets serious like this...

Meanwhile, whispers of nurses and patients filled every hospital ward.

“That woman is average-looking, yet she’s lucky enough to get carried in the arms of that drop-dead gorgeous man? I envy her!”

“Hmph. I bet that lady is wealthy and probably obsessed with handsome men. Maybe she’s paying him to treat her so well!”

“Eep! I want a drool-worthy hunk to carry me in bridal style too!”

“Did you see how gentle he is with her? Ugh, my husband doesn’t even treat me with half as much as that man does to her!”

It was though a stormy cloud formed above Natalie as she listened to the women’s envy for her and admiration toward Samuel.

These women are out of their minds! I am not as hideous as they make me out to be! Besides, Samuel is obsessed with me and won’t let me leave his life at all. I can’t get rid of him even if I want to!

Natalie was so mad that her cheeks reddened and puffed up.

At that sight, an amused chuckle rumbled from Samuel’s chest while he carried Natalie over to the bed in her private ward.

“Quit acting so tough all the time.” Samuel’s arms snaked past Natalie’s sides and forced her into an embrace. He continued, “You were obviously worried about Sophia, so much so that you were willing to risk your life for her.”

At once, Natalie’s heartbeat skyrocketed from feeling his hot breath tickling against her skin.

She quickly averted her gaze to look elsewhere.

“So what?” She muttered. “I’m only worried about Sophia because I love her and wanted to save her life out of my own free will. It has nothing to do with you, so please stop being nice to me out of gratitude. I don’t need or want any form of compensation from you.”

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Deep down, Natalie felt she had acted brashly by endangering her life to save Sophia.

I have children of my own too. If those men actually killed me, what would happen to my kids? How will they live without their mother? Things would have taken an extreme turn if Samuel hadn’t arrived in time to rescue me... That’s strange. I wasn’t even worried about my life when Sophia was in danger. For some reason, my instincts told me I needed to protect her. That feeling earlier... It was like I would rather have ten deep cuts on my body than let Sophia suffer from even the slightest scratch. Weird...

“I’m sorry...” Samuel’s sincere gaze locked on Natalie from a close distance.

“What do you mean?”

“I was too late,” Samuel murmured. “If I had just arrived even a minute earlier, you would not have to suffer from so much pain.”

Natalie’s heart skipped a beat.

Elsewhere, Yandel sought the help of Jerome but quickly caught wind of Natalie’s injury.

Jerome shot a grim look at Yandel as he questioned the latter, “What exactly is Natalie’s relationship with that little girl? Natalie is normally someone who places her safety first and foremost, so why did she risk her life for a girl that she barely knows?”