

A Cue for Love Chapter 1061

Chapter 1061 Most Valued Guest

Sebastian Zeller frowned in confusion when he heard that. Award ceremony? Prince Jonathan didn't tell me anything about Ms. Nichols receiving an award, though. He only asked me to offer her the best hospitality possible...

"Ms. Nichols, you're a valued guest Prince Jonathan invited. There are no special rules that you need to follow. No one will be able to harm you in any way as long as you don't disrespect him," Sebastian replied with a smile.

Natalie nodded in response. Sebastian then stepped out of the lounge, leaving Natalie inside all by herself. This whole journey seems kind of different from what I expected. I feel there's some kind of conspiracy or something behind all this, but I can't quite put my finger on it. Oh, well... I suppose I can only go with the flow and see what happens...

Meanwhile, in the largest lounge within the palace, Bastien bowed at Frieda Rory and addressed her respectfully, "Mother."

"Bastien, you will be turning twenty-eight today. It's about time you get married and have kids. That way, your father will prioritize you and entrust you with more important responsibilities," Frieda said with a relieved smile when she saw how handsome and elegant her son looked.

Bastien nodded. "I understand, Mother." Frieda let out a chuckle. "Very well, then. Come on, let's go greet our guests at the entrance."

Although she didn't have many children like the king's other wives, her son excelled in every aspect and had great potential in competing for the throne.

"Yes, Mother." Following proper etiquette and customs, Bastien walked behind Frieda as the two made their way to the entrance of the banquet hall. Geert arrived at the palace with Helma and Heidi shortly after.

Geert and Frieda had long since agreed to have Helma marry Bastien. Frieda was especially happy that Helma had royal blood running through her veins.

On top of that, Helma also came from a wealthy family, spoke many languages, and was familiar with the customs of the royal family. She believed Helma would make a great wife for her son as she could help him with everything and uphold the royal family's image if the two visited other countries.

Geert and his two daughters bowed respectfully to Frieda and Bastien upon meeting them.

As Bastien's gaze fell upon the two sisters, he realized it was his first time meeting Heidi since she had only joined the family not long ago.

Because Helma had been attending lots of royal banquets with Geert since she was little, Bastien knew her all too well.

There wasn't a single trace of emotion in Bastien's eyes when he looked at Helma.

Helma, on the other hand, was staring at Bastien with an incredibly affectionate look in her eyes.

Frieda waved at Helma and motioned at her to come closer.

Helma walked up to her and addressed her sweetly, "Greetings, Lady Frieda."

Frieda held Helma's hands as she said with a smile, "You'll be changing that form of address soon, Helma."

Helma had a shy look on her face when she heard that.

Geert was grinning from ear to ear as he stood behind them.

Bastien simply looked straight ahead and ignored his mother's statement completely.

Heidi couldn't help but feel jealous and indignant as she watched from the side. Mother has sacrificed so much for Father's sake, but it was all in vain. Lady Frieda and Prince Jonathan have never paid any attention to me whatsoever.

With the greetings out of the way, Geert and his daughters made their way into the banquet hall.

Frieda shot Bastien a glare and asked in displeasure, "Bastien, Helma will be your fiancée after tonight. Why are you still being so cold to her?"

Bastien turned to look at her as he replied calmly, "I won't treat my fiancée coldly, but Helma isn't my fiancée just yet. Please stop asking me to treat her like one, Mother."

Frieda stared at her son from the side. She felt there was something off about his words but couldn't quite put her finger on it.

"Your father will be attending your birthday party with two of his wives tonight. Remember to invite Helma to the opening dance later. Your father will take care of your engagement when the time comes."

A Cue for Love Chapter 1062

Chapter 1062 Destined To Be His Fiancee

As it was Heidi's first time attending a royal banquet, she was shocked by the grand and luxurious decor in the hall.

She got so distracted that she didn't hear Geert and Helma whispering behind her.

"Father, why is Prince Jonathan being so cold to me? Do you think something's going to happen during the engagement today?" Helma asked worriedly.

"Of course not! Bastien is a prince, so he can't be flirting with you on such a formal occasion! He's not being cold, Helma. He's being formal and dignified," Geert replied sternly.

Helma bit her lip. "But—"

"That's enough, Helma. Lady Frieda has made her intentions very clear with her words and attitude toward you, so you have nothing to worry about!" Geert cut her off impatiently.

I feel Bastien is just being gentle toward me. I don't think he has any feelings for me, but Father said Lady Frieda likes me, so I guess I should stop worrying about it. Maybe I am really just overthinking it. Regardless, I'm destined to become Bastien's fiancée after tonight!

Helma was snapped out of her train of thought when Geert patted her on the shoulder. "Stop worrying about it, Helma. There will be countless eyes on you tonight, so you need to stay focused. Don't screw this up, or you'll ruin the reputation of both your mother and the Leitz family. Is that understood?"

Helma nodded solemnly. "I understand, Father. I won't dishonor our family name."

Having gotten an eyeful of the luxurious decor, Heidi turned around and broke into a wry smile when she saw the two of them whispering among themselves.

Heh... Father always places Helma's and the Leitz family's interests above everything else. Because of that, Mother and I have always had to make compromises. I wouldn't even be putting up an act here with them if I didn't need their power to get my revenge on Natalie!

Moments later, the king of Loang made a grand appearance in the banquet hall with lots of servants escorting him.

The guests all bowed respectfully to him as he made his way toward the throne.

Frieda, and his other two wives, Shirley Clarke and Cynthia Holton, were all seated beside him.

Although the king of Loang no longer had a huge harem like his predecessors, he was still allowed to have multiple wives. Each of his wives was equal in status and only differed in age.

Mikhail Scholl had four wives, but the first one had died from an illness, so only three remained.

His four wives had given birth to ten children, four of which were male and six of which were female. Therefore, the royal family had four princes and six princesses.

The guests waited until the king was seated before standing up straight.

Bastien walked up to Mikhail and said with a bow, "Greetings, Father."

"There are plenty of decent, unmarried girls at the party tonight. Did you find any of them to your liking?" Mikhail asked with a smile.

"Yes, Father."

"You're the only one among your siblings who is not married yet. Tonight, I shall help you out with that. Your mother has been pestering me about getting you a wife, so I figured I'd take care of it on your birthday."

"Thank you, Father," Bastien replied while clenching his fists tightly. He had long since made up his mind on the matter.

Natalie felt an inexplicable sense of helplessness when she was brought to the banquet hall.

The royal family was so secretive that even someone of Jerome's rank wasn't entitled to an event like this.

It's as if I'm being locked in a huge, luxurious cage... It may give off the illusion that you can do whatever you like, but the fact remains that it is still a cage. There is no actual freedom. If you try to spread your wings, you'll only hurt yourself by crashing into the cage walls.

"Are you sure I should be here? Could there have been some kind of mistake?" Natalie asked Sebastian anxiously.

"You may rest assured that this is no mistake, Ms. Nichols. This is all part of Prince Jonathan's instructions. All you have to do is wait patiently," Sebastian replied politely.

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Chapter 1063 Dance

Heidi casually glanced around and saw Natalie had also attended the banquet. Her pupils constricted in shock, and she uttered through gritted teeth, “Why is she here? How is she qualified to attend a banquet like this?”

Hatred surged within Heidi when she looked at Natalie’s face. She could never forget the humiliation she had suffered that night. Not only was she mercilessly rejected by the man she loved at first sight, but she was also defiled by those three foul men.

Geert was absorbed in his conversation with his long-time acquaintances, so he did not hear Heidi’s words. On the other hand, Helma heard Heidi and shifted her gaze, following the latter’s line of vision. Sure enough, Natalie was standing somewhere in the banquet hall.

“That’s right. Why is she here? It seems that I underestimated her background. No wonder she could triumph over Olivia in the past,” Helma said in surprise.

Aside from how Geert had previously paid too much attention to Natalie, which caused Helma to feel slightly uncomfortable, Helma was actually quite fond of Natalie.

Helma thought Natalie was brilliant, attentive, and without ulterior motives, unlike some people in the business world who had always tried to butter up members of the Leitz family like her.

Helma handed the wine glass in her hand to Heidi. “Heidi, I’m going over to greet Ms. Nichols.”

Heidi curled her lips into a sneer. “Do as you wish, Helma, but I should warn you not to let Ms. Nichols’ plain appearance fool you. It would be best for you to keep a safe distance from her.”

“Heidi, I don’t think she’s as you say.”

A hint of resentment flashed across Heidi’s eyes. “Never judge a book by its cover. I just want to advise you not to jump to conclusions so quickly.”

Helma shot a distasteful look at Heidi and said, “That’s enough. Do not speak further. I am quite capable of discerning someone’s character on my own.”

Heidi felt displeased as Helma was reluctant to believe her even after her deliberate attempt to sully Natalie’s reputation.

Not long after Sebastian left, Natalie noticed Helma moving in her direction.

“Ms. Helma,” Natalie greeted Helma.

Helma beamed at Natalie. “This is such a coincidence. I didn’t anticipate bumping into you at this place. I thought you were incredible for being able to persuade Muse into making an appearance. Unexpectedly, we meet again here tonight. I suppose you are the girlfriend of one of the members of royalty?”

“Hmm?”

Natalie fell into a daze, listening to Helma.

“Ms. Helma, I’m not anyone’s girlfriend.”

“Natalie, I already think of you as my friend, so there’s no need to hide this from me.” Helma cracked a faint smile. “Otherwise, how could you attend Prince Jonathan’s birthday banquet today? After all, this is an event attended by His Majesty and his consorts.”

After listening to Helma’s elaboration, Natalie realized that things had been unusual since the very beginning.

“It’s really not what you think.”

“Are you still trying to keep me in the dark, Natalie?” Helma winked at Natalie. “Quit keeping me in suspense. Who’s the nobleman you’re dating? Is he from the Osborne family, or perhaps someone from the Nagai family? We should hang out more in the future and look for opportunities to collaborate in our businesses too.”

Natalie felt she had made herself clear, yet Helma was unwilling to accept her explanation.

She narrowed her eyes and uttered firmly, “That’s really not the case. Ms. Helma, you’ve misunderstood.”

At that moment, the lights in the banquet hall suddenly dimmed for the commencement of the first dance segment of the night.

Under everyone’s watchful gazes, Bastien, dressed in an exquisite and fitting tuxedo, slowly walked in Natalie and Helma’s direction.

The possible marriage between Bastien and the Leitz family was tacit knowledge to the crowd.

The Leitz family came from a long line of nobility, and Helma’s mother was the princess’ daughter, so Helma possessed a distinguished bloodline. Moreover, she was also

famous among the elites of the society. Therefore, many considered Bastien and her a match made in heaven.

That thought did not just cross the onlookers' minds. Even Helma shared the sentiment as she curled her lips and waited for the man she loved to ask her to join him for the first dance.

A Cue for Love Chapter 1064

Chapter 1064 Depths Of Hell

Helma's heart was thumping as she looked at the man she had fallen for since she was a little girl approaching her.

As long as she could finish the first dance with Bastien, everything would progress as her father had told her. After that night, she would become Bastien's chosen fiancée.

If Bastien became the king in the future, Helma would follow in Frieda and Cynthia's footsteps, attaining an exalted status and bathing in glory and honor for the rest of her life.

Meanwhile, standing next to Helma, Natalie was shocked to her core as a look of utter disbelief spread across her face.

She had assumed that the man addressed by others as Mr. Nine was either affluent or influential, but little did she know his identity was more remarkable than she had ever imagined.

I can't believe this man is Loang's Prince Jonathan, as well as one of the strongest contenders to become the future king of Loang. How is this possible?

Bastien strode toward Natalie and Helma.

Helma stretched out her hand in anticipation at him.

To her surprise, the man she liked did not come to a halt in front of her.

Instead, he stopped beside her and reached out to Natalie.

Helma's gorgeous smile froze on her face. She was overwhelmed by astonishment and incredulity.

"You—" Natalie widened her eyes at Bastien.

"I'm sorry for informing you of my identity in this manner." Bastien wore a gentle countenance and regarded Natalie with a passionate gaze. "Today is my birthday. May I have the pleasure of asking you to join me for a dance?"

At that instant, everyone shifted their attention to Natalie.

Although there was never an official announcement about Bastien and Helma's marriage, that arrangement had become an implicit understanding in their circle due to the frequent interactions between the two families in recent years.

Geert's facial expression stiffened as he exclaimed, "Why is this happening? Shouldn't Prince Jonathan ask Helma to dance?"

"Natalie, s-she—" Heidi furrowed her brows.

Frieda was baffled by the turns of events as well, but due to the presence of the others in the banquet hall, she could only grasp the armrest of her seat in anxiety.

Before the start of the banquet, she had reminded Bastien of the significance of the first dance and told him to invite Helma to dance with him no matter what. To her bewilderment, he was now asking a girl she had never seen to join him for the dance. What Bastien is doing is simply outrageous!

Cynthia and Shirley exchanged mocking glances and smirked at one another. They were eager to observe how things would turn south from that point onward.

Mikhail sat at the head of the table. When he saw Natalie, he was instantaneously caught in a flashback, as if he was seeing someone in his memories from twenty years ago.

They look so alike. She looks so similar to her, the woman I can never forget in this life!

Bastien's abrupt action aroused different thoughts and speculations in everyone inside the banquet hall. They were all waiting to see how Natalie would respond.

Bastien had been holding out his hand for over ten seconds, but Natalie merely stared at his extended arm in a daze.

"Can you really bring yourself to reject me in public?"

Natalie looked up and shot him a piercing look. "You lied to me. I won't feel bad for rejecting you."

"You—"

“However, I shall agree to your invitation to save you the embarrassment since I owe you a favor.” Natalie lowered her voice and spoke at a volume discernible only by both of them. “Anyway, I’m just joining you for a dance. I’m leaving right away after we finish this dance.”

With that, she bowed at him following Loang’s tradition before placing her hand in his palm.

Bastien was slightly taken aback. Still, he thought he had achieved his goal regardless of the process.

A beam of white light shone upon Natalie and Bastien as they stepped onto the middle of the dance floor. Then, they began dancing to the elegant waltz music.

Bastien had been receiving lessons on royal etiquette from a young age. Naturally, he could dance very well.

On the other hand, Natalie’s movements were not as practiced as his, but her motions were graceful. She wore light makeup and did not put up any coquettish or flirty demeanor. In contrast, she even gave off an indifferent vibe, dressed in her evening gown.

Almost everybody’s eyes were trained on Bastien and Natalie.

Helma’s mood had taken a roller-coaster ride from initial joy to utter shock, then to complete disappointment as she stared at the two. The transitions between the various states of mind occurred in less than three minutes, but that short period was sufficient to let her feel as if she had fallen from the peak of heaven to the depths of hell.

A Cue for Love Chapter 1065

Chapter 1065 We Will Not Be Friends Anymore

Tears brimmed in Helma’s eyes as she stared at Bastien and Natalie dancing away gracefully in front of her. God knows how many times she had pictured this scene inside her head, and although it had finally come true, the female protagonist was now a different woman instead of her.

She had pined for this moment forever. That was why it hurt so much now. Helma could practically hear her own heart and dreams shattering. Geert walked over and held her hand in his. “Helma.”

“Father.” The woman gazed up at her father with misty eyes. “Don’t cry! There are so many people watching you right now, waiting for you to look beaten down. You can break down at home if you want to, but don’t you do that here!” Geert reminded her despite him tensing up too.

“But I can’t hold it in, Father.” Helma’s eyes turned increasingly red. “You have to,” the man warned sternly. “You already know how ugly things got because of the canceled engagement, and you’re still on the verge of tears now? Don’t you know how much more people would look down on you if they saw you like this?”

Helma wanted to cry, but Geert stopped her at once. Being unable to relieve the anguish in her heart only intensified the pain.

While burning with rage as she saw Helma’s dreams getting crushed, Heidi scowled over the fact that everyone’s attention was on the woman on the dancefloor.

I underestimated you, Natalie! You’re much slyer than I thought!

Heidi began to speak on Helma’s behalf, which was an extremely rare thing for her to do. “Father, why are you forcing her not to cry? There’s no way she can control her emotions. How about I take her away from here so she can calm down?”

Geert pondered for a moment. “All right. Watch over her.”

“I will, Father.”

The two women walked out of the banquet hall.

Unfortunately, Helma still looked visibly desperate to leave, even with Heidi holding onto her.

In fact, it looked more as if she was running away rather than just leaving.

Back on the dancefloor, Bastien’s lips curled as he gazed at Natalie tenderly.

He knew he shouldn’t have done this, but at the thought of losing this woman, he had eventually chosen to disobey his mother’s orders and invite Natalie to have the significant opening waltz with him.

The two remained at a close distance from each other.

Natalie blinked while asking coldly, “Why did you have to reveal your identity to me this way?”

The man clearly had better ways to tell her who he was, and yet he had opted to do it in a method she had least expected.

She knew she couldn’t turn down the prince’s request to dance in front of everyone, which meant he had practically forced her to say yes.

Natalie wanted to make decisions of her own free will.

She utterly despised being manipulated into doing something she didn't want to do.

"You wouldn't have come if I'd told you earlier," Bastien answered. "You might have even ended up keeping a distance from me."

"Well, since you know me so well, you should know what's going to happen after this dance. We won't even be friends anymore!"

The woman's eyes gleamed at the music's last note, and with some struggle, she wriggled her hand out of Bastien's.

The latter grimaced slightly in response.

"Natalie, I know I made you uncomfortable by doing this without your consent, but some matters are just out of my control," he said while keeping a fiery gaze on her. "I'm not a commoner. There are some things a regular person can easily do that I can't."

"Well, I'm a commoner, and you're a nobleman. So similarly, there are some things you can easily do that I can't," Natalie retorted. "I'm not from Loang, Prince Jonathan. I know nothing about these aristocratic waltzes that your people take part in either, so please stop being this ridiculous now. You should've had this dance with Helma instead, not me!"