

A Cue for Love Chapter 1066

Chapter 1066 I Refuse

“You knew what was going on between Helma and me?” Bastien certainly hadn’t expected this. “I do. That’s why I never wanted to get myself involved,” Natalie stated icily. “Natalie.”

The woman pursed her lips and ignored Bastien. At that very moment, a five-star servant appeared before Natalie, blocking her path.

“Greetings, Miss. His Majesty would like to speak to you and the prince.” This servant was the king’s most trusted aide, and despite the smile on his face, he gave off an air of intimidation to those around him.

Natalie was speechless. I just can’t get away. She could only make her way toward the king alongside Bastien. Following Loang customs, the woman gave Mikhail the most supreme form of greeting, rising back to her feet only after gaining the latter’s permission.

“What is your name?” the king asked while fiddling with a ring—one with the image of a dragon, signifying his absolute authority—on his middle finger.

“Natalie Nichols.”

“Where are you from?”

“Dellmoor, Chanaea.”

“So, you’re not a noble?”

“I’m not. I’m just a businesswoman stopping by in Loang,” Natalie answered candidly.

Frieda’s expression clouded over as she listened. She only wanted Helma as her future daughter-in-law, not this woman standing before her who had nothing to do with Loang.

I won’t let him marry her!

“Your Majesty, this lady here may not understand the significance of that dance since she’s not from here. That said, I think we should just leave this matter as it is. Let’s not delve any further into it,” she advised with a smile.

Yet, Cynthia couldn’t resist fanning the flames. “Even if she doesn’t understand it, it doesn’t change the fact that she danced. Besides, it’s not like Bastien isn’t aware of the significance behind this waltz, no?”

“Cynthia! You—”

“Cynthia didn’t say anything wrong, Frieda,” Shirley chimed in.

Disregarding the little drama going on between his father’s wives, Bastien stepped forward and declared earnestly, “Father, I’m well aware of the meaning behind that dance, so I’ve absolutely made my choice.”

Mikhail’s eyes left Bastien and fell on Natalie once again.

She looks just like her twenty years ago!

When he was young, Mikhail used to be hopelessly in love with a woman who had unfortunately lived a short life. Now, looking at a woman who reminded him of her made him develop a favorable impression of Natalie.

Logically speaking, he wouldn’t have allowed Bastien to choose a commoner as a bride.

Yet, the man seemed especially fond of Natalie merely because she resembled someone he once adored.

“If this is what he wants, then it shall be,” Mikhail responded with a chuckle.

Having initially thought his father would make things difficult for him, Bastien was especially surprised to see him looking so carefree. However, the woman next to him wasn’t having it.

“I refuse, Your Majesty,” Natalie announced.

All the royals’ expressions took a turn.

Cynthia and Shirley stared at Natalie in bewilderment.

Meanwhile, Frieda sighed internally, relieved that this woman had said no.

Bastien turned to Natalie with a conflicted look in his eyes. I know I tricked her, but I really like her. I want to look after her for the rest of our lives, but she’s turning me down in front of everyone?

“Natalie, you—”

The woman shot him a frosty glance. “There’s no denying that you helped me, but how much do you truly understand me?”

Then, she turned to face Mikhail’s inexplicable gaze and explained frankly, “My reason for saying no is simple, Your Majesty. I’m already married and have five children. I

believe I pass none of the requirements for marrying into the royal family of Loang now. Am I right?"

A smirk played on Natalie's lips as everyone became filled with shock.

"That's impossible!" Bastien furrowed his brows.

"You couldn't find out anything else about me, but that doesn't mean what I'm saying isn't true," the woman replied, blinking. "You should know that a lot of my details are encrypted. Sure, you managed to find out that I came to Loang for business, but how sure can you be that you know everything?"

Bastien was unable to respond.

There was indeed nothing else to the information Joseph had dug up.

The atmosphere turned awkward in an instant.

Cynthia covered her mouth, failing to stifle a laugh. "Well, just when I thought she was just a commoner, it turns out she's even married with kids! What a stir you've caused this time around, Prince Jonathan."

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Chapter 1067 Humiliated

"I certainly couldn't tell that you're actually a mother, Ms. Nichols! One with five children, to boot! It's a pity these children have nothing to do with the royal family. Otherwise, they'd be an additional blessing to our household!" Shirley added insincerely.

The two women's remarks caused Frieda's face to tense up. She couldn't even force a smile at this point.

"Well, since Ms. Nichols has made herself clear that this is all a misunderstanding, we may as well go along with my prior suggestion," she responded while shooting Natalie a glare.

Mikhail appeared solemn. No one knew what he was thinking.

"Bastien, I hope you'll learn not to make such rash decisions from now on," he remarked before getting up from his seat and leaving.

As Cynthia and Shirley followed him hastily, Frieda did so too, worried that the other two women might spread rumors about her to their husband.

Bastien clenched his fists, his initially gentle gaze now having turned slightly gloomy.

“When did you get married?” he asked, staring straight into Natalie’s eyes. “Who’s your husband? Why did you keep your information encrypted?”

“I keep my details as secure as possible to prevent my enemies from knowing me better,” the woman answered frigidly. “I used to treat you as a friend and would’ve never chosen to hide my information from you if you hadn’t decided all these things for me or if you had readily disclosed your identity. Maybe I would’ve even gladly shared as long as you asked. But I guess there’s no point talking about all this anymore. Happy birthday, Prince Jonathan. I’m tired, so I’ll be taking my leave now.”

Natalie bowed respectfully before walking away.

Reluctance and dejection filled Bastien’s eyes as he gazed at the woman’s departing silhouette.

He had thought tonight was the night to give Natalie the most romantic surprise by sharing a dance, and even if his parents had their qualms, everyone would have no choice but to accept his marriage to her as long as he remained adamant.

And yet, never had he expected this woman to already be married with children.

Accepting a commoner into the palace was the most leeway this royal household would allow, but if the woman in question had already been married previously, she would never be approved of.

Bastien held his wine glass so tightly that it broke, causing the shards to dig into his palm.

Joseph hurried over upon seeing the blood trickle out of the former’s hand. “Mr. Nine! Are you—”

“I’m fine,” the latter replied nonchalantly, although there seemed to be an unprecedented storm brewing in his eyes.

Meanwhile, Helma was now getting some air outside Luna Palace as tears rolled down her face uncontrollably.

“Helma...” Heidi felt a pang of sadness in her own heart at the sight of her sister crying, and she couldn’t resist patting the latter’s shoulder in sympathy. “Don’t be sad. Everything that happened tonight isn’t your fault.”

“I feel so humiliated,” Helma choked out. “I’ve loved Bastien for so many years. Both Father and Lady Frieda told me that I’d become his wife. I thought... I thought I’d finally get to be engaged to him, but it looks like my feelings were one-sided all along. I’m not the one he loves. He would rather marry a commoner instead of me.”

Tonight's banquet was merely the start of the humiliation she would face.

It wouldn't be long before word about Bastien rejecting her made waves across upper-class society. Who would ever want to marry her now?

Regardless of her family's status, people would clearly remember what had happened. Some might even use this incident as leverage against the Leitz household.

"It's all Natalie's fault!" Heidi exclaimed in fury. "Have you forgotten, Helma? That woman is a minx! Remember how she kept Father's eyes glued to her? Now, she just stole your man! And to think she's going around seducing every guy she can even though she's clearly married? She really is the most shameless woman in the world!"

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Chapter 1068 Insist On Being The Third Party

Helma's tears stopped upon hearing Heidi's words as she gave the latter a blank stare. "Helma, am I wrong? All of this isn't Prince Jonathan's fault. Before the banquet, you have seen for yourself how Lady Frieda treated you. It's clear that she sees you as her future daughter-in-law."

Helma gritted her teeth. That's right. Other than Bastien, who's giving me the cold shoulder, Lady Frieda's attitude toward me is indicative of her approval.

"Helma, it must be Natalie who persists on being the third party. She must have drugged Prince Jonathan to make something like that happen." Heidi's eyes were spewing fire. "Tonight was supposed to be a glorious evening for you, but because of her, you ended up being humiliated in front of all the guests."

Heidi's words ignited the rage in Helma's eyes. "And here I was, trusting Natalie and thinking that she was my friend. I didn't expect her to disgrace me in public despite knowing that I'm going to marry Prince Jonathan."

"Helma, stop crying." Holding a silk handkerchief, Heidi wiped the tears off Helma's face and comforted her, "Don't forget that Natalie is already married. Given her situation, there's no way she can be part of the Loang royal family."

"Heidi, how do you know that she's married?"

"I..." Heidi was stumped for words.

Since she didn't appear close to Natalie on the surface, it wouldn't make sense for her to know so much. However, if she didn't explain, Helma would definitely become suspicious and might even investigate further. If it came to that, the truth of that fateful night would definitely be exposed.

After racking her brains, Heidi elaborated, “It was because I saw Father take a particular interest in that minx. As I was worried that he would be tricked by her, I secretly did some digging... but that isn’t what’s important. What really matters is that I never expected her to be such a despicable person!”

After the emotional rollercoaster Helma had gone through, she hadn’t recovered her senses enough to see the flaws in Heidi’s explanation.

Meanwhile, Natalie had left the banquet hall.

After failing to find Helma inside, she didn’t expect to see the former crying on the street outside Luna Palace. Heidi was also there, comforting her sister.

That night, Natalie didn’t regret turning Bastien down nor felt as if she had done him any wrong.

If there was indeed someone I let down, it was Helma.

The banquet was of utmost importance to the latter, especially the dance. Natalie was cognizant that Bastien’s action might have come as a surprise to her but meant something entirely different to Helma.

Thus, she rushed over without any hesitation.

“Ms. Helma...” Biting her lip, Natalie explained, “About tonight, I have to clear the air.”

Helma, lips pursed, shot Natalie a glare.

At the same time, Heidi stepped forward and bellowed, “Clear the air? What’s there to clarify? Everyone saw the dance just now. Do you think that we’re blind? How shameless can you be?”

Well aware that Heidi was an annoying troublemaker, Natalie shot her a warning look.

“Ms. Heidi, is it really necessary to go that far?”

Heidi’s expression drastically changed, for she could read between the lines of Natalie’s threat and was consequently frightened into silence. After all, what happened that night was beyond disgraceful. If she were to be exposed, she would never be able to marry anyone from the royal family.

Oblivious to the truth, Helma—thinking that Natalie was just intimidating her sister—lashed out, “Enough! Natalie, I have never done you any harm. But you, knowing how important this banquet is to me, used such a despicable method to screw it up and humiliate me in public!”

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Chapter 1069 Did Not Dodge On Purpose

“Ms. Helma, I’m aware of your feelings for Prince Jonathan, and it never crossed my mind to compete with you for him.” Knitting her brows, Natalie explained earnestly, “It’s true that I have danced the first dance with him, but I never agreed to any of his requests. The dance was just a dance and didn’t mean anything. He’s still single and capable of becoming your fiancé.”

As if she had heard the worst joke in her life, Helma snorted. “Natalie, are you taking pity on me?”

“That’s not my intention.” “No?” With the tears in Helma’s eyes all dried up, hatred was all that was left. Step by step, she approached Natalie. “Are you gloating then? By dancing with Bastien in front of everyone, you have utterly humiliated me.

On top of that, you’re well aware that you, having been married before, would never be part of the royal family, let alone get to marry him. And now, you come all the way out here just to pretend to give him up for my sake?”

Natalie shook her head firmly. “I didn’t mean any of it. You have really misunderstood me. Before tonight, I had no idea that he was Prince Jonathan. I thought I would only get to see him when I received the award for bravery.”

Raising her hand, Helma slapped Natalie’s face with all her might. After a loud smack rang out, a red palm print quickly emerged on the latter’s cheeks. “You’ve already tricked me once!” Helma sneered, “If I’m fooled a second time, wouldn’t that make me an idiot?”

Even though Natalie wasn’t considered an expert in combat skills, she could still have easily dodged the slap. Nonetheless, she deliberately chose not to and took the full brunt of it.

“Ms. Helma, since you feel insulted over what happened earlier, I hope you have vented your frustration with the slap.” The persistent Natalie reiterated, “I’ve already explained myself to you and hope that you’ll believe me. I really didn’t do it on purpose, and all of this is just a misunderstanding.”

With that, Natalie bowed at Helma before turning around to leave.

Her deep bow brimmed with sincerity.

As Helma watched Natalie’s leaving silhouette, she couldn’t help but feel confused.

Is she really sincere, or is this just an act?

“Helma, don’t tell me you buy her story.” The malicious Heidi tried to sow discord. “All she’s doing is making an excuse for herself. It’s just that she’s already married. Otherwise, that dance would probably have kickstarted her relationship with Prince Jonathan.”

“I...”

“Helma, don’t waver!” While wearing a concerned expression, Heidi added, “She might be painting a pretty picture now, but it doesn’t mean she wouldn’t cause trouble in the future. Even if she has rejected Prince Jonathan’s marriage proposal, there’s no telling whether he has given up on her. Hence, you cannot be taken in too easily!”

Upon hearing Heidi’s words, Helma’s softening stance hardened again.

How dare she try and snatch Prince Jonathan away from me?

Helma had no intention of letting Natalie go just like that.

“That’s right!” An insidious glint flashed in Helma’s eyes. “No matter what, she has to be disposed of.”

“Mmm-hmm.” Despite merely humming lightly in acknowledgment, Heidi was ecstatic deep down. She wasn’t capable of destroying Natalie, but Helma might be capable of doing so.

Meanwhile, when Natalie was leaving Luna Palace, she noticed an army jeep at the entrance.

The vehicle and its plate looked especially familiar to her.

Soon, Jerome alighted from the driver’s seat and walked up to her.

“Natalie...” Spotting the palm print on Natalie’s face immediately, Jerome anxiously asked, “Your cheek... What happened? Tell me who hit you!”

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Chapter 1070 I Do Not Just Want To Be Friends

After Jerome realized that she had been bullied during Bastien’s birthday banquet, the man’s eyes were filled with concern. “I’m fine.” “How can you be fine? Do you know how red the palm print on your face is? Stop lying to me.”

When Jerome extended his hand in an attempt to stroke the palm print, Natalie dodged. Instead of answering his question directly, she requested, “Can we get in the car first? I want to leave right away so that I can calm down.”

Jerome's eyes glistened. "All right. Let's go then." As Jerome opened the door to the front passenger seat, Natalie lowered her head and got in. After leaving Luna Palace, they drove to a cafe and found a private room.

The waiter, upon serving them coffee, knowingly left the room and closed the door behind him. Furrowing his brows, Jerome asked, "Can you tell me now?"

"Bastien invited me to attend his birthday banquet which has nothing to do with the bank robbery from before." After having a sip of coffee, Natalie continued, "During the first dance of the banquet, he didn't invite Ms. Helma to dance as planned. Instead, he invited me!"

"What?" Jerome, coffee cup in hand, spilled it upon being jolted by her words. Despite the hot coffee scalding his arm, he didn't feel any pain at all.

"Don't worry." Natalie threw him a glance before adding flatly, "I did dance with him but didn't agree to his marriage proposal. Given that I'm married and have children, I would be a disgrace to the Loang royal family. Regardless of how strong Bastien's feelings are for me, there's no way he would put his political future on the line. As for the slap on my face, it was Ms. Helma who hit me. However, I don't blame her. Even though this matter wasn't my doing, I was still the reason she was ridiculed in public."

"You and Prince Jonathan?"

"Yes, we know each other." Natalie nodded. "Before tonight's events, we were still considered friends. But now, there's no more relationship to speak of. I'm sure you know what I hate the most, and yet, he did exactly that to me!"

Jerome nodded in agreement. Ever since Natalie was young, she hated to have her path dictated by someone else. Given her inherent love for freedom, she enjoyed the unpredictability of the future. All that mattered to her was a clear conscience.

As a result, when Bastien unilaterally decided to invite her to dance under the keen eyes of the public, he thought that he was bestowing upon her the highest honor. Little did he know that he was forcing her along a pre-determined path—an act that crossed her threshold.

"Natalie, do you want to leave Loang for the time being?"

"Why?" Chuckling, Natalie threw the question back at him. "Are you worried that he'd exact revenge on me?"

"Although you weren't the cause of the events tonight, you have practically offended everyone there is to offend. Considering the royal family's authority reaches every corner of Loang, it might be dangerous for you to continue staying here," Jerome analyzed the situation for her.

“You know, life is just too unpredictable. Perhaps by spoiling his plans, the other princes might admire me for my attitude. Anyway, I don’t care about what others think of me as long as my conscience is clear. Since my heart belongs to Samuel, I’ll definitely stay loyal to him.”

Just the thought of Samuel elicited an instinctive smile from Natalie’s face.

“I would rather die than betray Samuel.”

The resolute look in Natalie’s eyes triggered a tingling sensation in Jerome’s heart. Although he had given up hope on being together with her, sorrow still filled his soul when he heard Natalie declare her love for Samuel.

“Natalie, I respect your decision. If staying in Loang is what you want, my father and I will definitely protect you. Since you’re like a sister to me, there’s no way I would allow any harm to come your way.”

When the word “sister” rolled off his tongue, it brought a sting to his heart.