

A Cue for Love Chapter 151

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Chapter 151

Melissa explained at once, "Don't worry, Yara! The Natalie we're talking about is not the country bumpkin that you know and hate. It just so happens that our Natalie shares the same name with the one that has been giving you trouble..."

Yet. Yara's fists clenched tightly as her face fell into a dark and gloomy expression.

"Why don't you head upstairs? I'd to have a chat with Yara," Yvonne quickly said while shooting a look at Melissa

The latter asked, "Is this something that you guys don't want me to know about?"

"Yes. Glad you know that," Yvonne casually replied.

"Ugh. Fine!" Melissa pouted as she departed the living room and stormed upstairs.

Once she was out of sight, Yara spoke up. "Mom, there's something I need to ask you. That Natalie-"

Yvonne ushered, "Yara, let's not talk about Natalie right now. I have something more important to discuss with you. It's about the marriage between you and Samuel. How are the two of you progressing?"

A doubtful look flashed on Yara's face when she heard her mother's sudden question. "Why do you ask?"

"Yara, you've rejected countless eligible suitors for Samuel. It's also been five years since you birthed his kids. Why has he still not proposed to you?" Yvonne worryingly held Yara's hands as she went on. "Be honest with me. Has Samuel fallen for another woman?"

"Why would you say that?" Yara asked while raising a brow.

"Because I saw Samuel flirting with woman in a discreet corner yesterday at Old Mr. Watsons' birthday party!"

"What!" Shock overwhelmed Yara as she dropped the glass in her hands, its shards scattering on the ground.

She ignored the shattered web of glass by her feet. Instead, a vicious gleam flitted past her eyes as they focused on Yvonne. "Did you get a good look at that woman? Who is she? Which prestigious family is she from?"

"Umm, well, I tried to get a close look at the woman, but Samuel was in the way. He blocked the woman from my view by pressing his body against hers..." Yvonne shook her head and uttered, "I couldn't see anything at all, not even a glimpse of that woman's dress."

His body pressed against that woman?

Yara could not believe that Samuel would behave intimately with another woman during a formal occasion like Old Mr. Watsons' birthday party.

Having spent five years trying to get along with Samuel, she had always felt that he was an aloof, cold, and unapproachable man, just as his reputation states.

Yara could have never gotten close to Samuel under normal circumstances. However, she managed to trick him into believing she was the mother of his children-Sophia and Franklin. That put her at an advantage over other women as she now had a relationship with him, albeit a vague one.

Who? Who the hell could that woman be? Yara fumed.

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Just then, a thought crossed her mind.

"Mom, tell me this. That other 'Natalie' you and Melissa spoke about earlier, does she have freckles all over her face?" A vicious sneer curled on Yara's lips as she continued, "With a flat nose bridge, thick lips, and other hideous facial features?"

Yvonne nodded at once. "Yeah... That's exactly how she looks! You just described Natalia's appearance to a tee!

"I knew it!" Yara scoffed.

That sly woman! Natalie accepted ten million from me! How dare she go back on our deal and seduce Samuel!

By then, Yvonne finally put two and two together.

She asked, "Yara, do you mean that both our Natalies are the same woman, who also seduced Samuel...?"

Yvonne desperately wanted to believe that Samuel would not fall for someone homely like Natalie. Yet, she knew it was possible since even Shawn had taken a particular liking toward Natalie.

A snort came from Yara. "So what if she is? I'm still Sophia and Franklin's mother! Even if those brats dislike me, they can't deny our mother-child relationship!"

Yvonne wanted to say more but quickly silenced after noticing Yara's stern expression.

"It's about time. I have to go pick up Sophia and Franklin from school," Yara said.

She then grabbed her sunglasses before departing the Nichols residence.

Sometime later, numerous children walked out of the kindergarten.

Franklin held Sophia's hand as they exited the school gate.

It was then that Yara's voice called out, "Franklin, Sophia! I'm here to pick you guys up!"

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Franklin's brows twisted into a scowling look. Displeased with the sight of Yara, he muttered to himself, "Why is she here again?"

Even Sophia shook her head. "A-Annoying..."

The two kids turned away from Yara and raced in the opposite direction.

To this, Yara tensed for a brief second. She then forced herself to maintain a smile as she cheerily trailed behind the children. "Franklin and Sophia. Why are you two running? Did you not hear me? Or are you running away from me on purpose?"

She was trying her best to please the twins.

However, the two refused to show her any respect.

"Stop right there!" Yara yelled at the top of her lungs. Offended, she approached the twins and warned, "I'm your mommy! What kid would treat their mom with such a rotten attitude that you're showing me now?!"

"You're not our Mommy!" Franklin snapped with a look of conviction.

"Not your Mommy?" Yara took a sharp inhale before scoffing confidently, "Didn't your Daddy tell you that I'm the one who gave birth to the both of you?"

At that, Franklin and Sophia clenched their jaws.

While they did not trust Yara, they knew their father would never lie to them.

"So what if you did?" Franklin balled his fists and lifted his head high. "It's not like Daddy would ever allow you to live with us! Quit trying so hard because we will never call you our Mommy!"

"Mm-hmm... We never..." Sophia added firmly.

Their words hit right on Yara's sore spot.

Even so, she refused to give up.

"The two of you can never cut off our relationship no matter how much you want to," Yara snarled before gripping Sophia's arm tightly. "Come, now. I've reserved a table for us at a five-star hotel. There will be ice cream, chocolates and mousse cakes, so I'm sure the two of you will enjoy yourselves."

Sophia mustered all of her strength to resist Yara's grip.

She screamed, "I... No...!"

"How dare you!" Yara roared as she forcefully grabbed Sophia's shoulder. "I made such a sincere effort to order all those desserts for you, and this is how you repay me? Well, I don't care. You two are joining me whether you like it or not."

Her long nails dug into Sophia's shoulders.

Yara had intentionally picked on Sophia, knowing that the latter was weak and susceptible to pain.

True enough, Sophia began tearing up from Yara's claw-like grip. She cried out, "P-Pain... Hurt..."

Despite that, Yara continued to sink her nails into Sophia's skin.

Forget playing nice! It's not like these two are my biological children. I was probably too kind to them.

That must be why they've grown quite the nerve to treat me with such disrespect. I have to teach these two brats a lesson today!

"Let go of Sophia!" Franklin yanked Yara's arm after seeing Sophia scream in pain. He thundered. "You're an evil woman! Let go of her right now!"

"Who do you think you are? How dare you talk to me with that tone, Franklin!" Yara reprimanded.

"I don't care who you are!" Franklin was enraged as he bellowed hatefully, "I'll make you pay dearly for hurting Sophia!"

Even though he was only a five-year-old, Franklin's words gave off an air of murderous intent.

"How am I bullying Sophia?" Yara replied coldly, "I'm merely disciplining my child! I am your mommy! You don't need another woman to give you the love of a mother! I can give it to you!"

Franklin sneered

Then, he lunged forward to bite down hard on Yara's arm.

It did not take long before a trail of bloody teeth marks formed on her skin.

"Franklin! How dare you..." Yara bellowed, letting go of Sophia due to the stinging pain coursing through her arm.

After tasting blood in his mouth, Franklin let go of Yara and looked up at her. "I told you to leave my sister alone!"

Still disgruntled, he kicked Yara's leg for good measure.

The latter fell to the ground as she did not expect Franklin's attack.

A voice sounded from behind them just when Yara was about to reprimand the twins, "Franklin Bowers! Who taught you to behave like such a wild brat?! Stop your tantrum at once!"

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Kenneth alighted the Maybach that pulled up nearby. He then walked toward Franklin and Sophia with an icy expression before lecturing, "What kind of behavior is this? I heard that you two have been treating Yara poorly, but this is unacceptable! She gave birth to the both of you after ten difficult months of pregnancy. Is this how you repay your mother's hardships?"

The twins fell silent as that was the first time Kenneth had yelled at them with such a harsh tone.

However, the twins refused to give in.

They thought in unison, Treat Yara as our mother? Never! Over our dead bodies!

"Great-grandpa, I've done nothing wrong!" Franklin exclaimed. "That woman started it! She forced us to call her our mommy, and she even hurt Sophia! I told her to let Sophia go, but she refused! Sophia was crying in pain!"

He would not have reacted so violently if Yara had chosen to hurt him instead of his sister.

Meanwhile, Kenneth's arrival had surprised Yara too. She did not expect him to witness Franklin's attack on her but was pleased that it worked in her favor.

Yara knew the twins harbored a great deal of respect for Kenneth. Thus, she decided to brainwash the latter into taking her side. That way, the twins would have to think twice before ever disobeying her again.

"It's my fault..." she uttered, fake tears rolling down her cheeks. "I know that you two don't like me very much, but I've been trying my best. All I wanted was for us to spend some quality time today. I didn't think that you guys hated me that much..."

"You're a wicked woman!" Franklin clenched his jaw. "Who would want to spend quality time with you? Why don't you talk about how you hurt Sophia?"

"I would never do that!" Yara uttered pitifully. "I'm your mother! Plus, all I want is to spoil Sophia rotten. Why would I ever hurt her?"

"You're lying!" Franklin rebuked.

Yara feigned a hurt expression as she said, "Fine. This is all my fault, okay? Please don't be upset..."

Franklin was a smart kid, but he could never win against Yara's sly acting.

Kenneth was losing his patience as he stood by and listened.

Eventually, he had enough and bellowed furiously, "Shut your lips, Franklin! I will punish you once we get home!"

Franklin and Sophia were the precious twins of the Bowers family.

Even Steven had to give in to them when they played tricks on him.

The only people that the twins feared were Samuel and Kenneth.

Thus, the twins obediently entered the car under Kenneth's instruction.

Sophia glanced over at her brother with an anxious look. "F-Franklin... Franklin..."

"Don't be afraid, Sophia..." Deep down, Franklin was afraid of whatever punishment awaited them at home. However, he did not want Sophia to worry, so he reassured her, "I'm not afraid of a little punishment! I would rather suffer than apologize to that woman!"

Sophia nodded but held tightly onto her teddy bear out of guilt.

She secretly felt bad that Franklin was getting punished for protecting her.

Once they got home, Kenneth sat in front of the twins at the Bowers residence's living room.

It was the first time that the two witnessed Kenneth's anger, and thus, they were starting to worry.

Yara, who sat beside Kenneth, felt utterly pleased with the situation.

Even without Samuel's help, she was confident that she could deal with the twins; After all, she had Kenneth's support.

"Grandpa, I'm fine..." Yara pretended to assure as she exposed the wound on her arm. "I haven't been a good mother. I failed to spend quality time with them while they were growing up. I am to blame for our estranged relationship... Everything is my fault!"

"Blood runs thicker than water," Kenneth emphasized firmly. "Family comes first. Yet, those two don't seem to understand something fundamental like respect for family members at all."

The twins remained silent.

Family comes first? They thought to themselves.

Does Great-grandpa think we're idiots? Of course, we understand the importance of respect within our family! But this woman isn't our Mommy!

"I want you both to prove that you've learned your lesson by apologizing to Yara at once!" Kenneth ordered.

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Kenneth valued Sophia and Franklin.

Although he pampered them, he would never allow them to behave nastily.

He had handed the Bowers family to Samuel, so he knew Samuel would hand it down to the twins in the future.

Hence, he could not let the two children get away with such arrogant behavior.

“As long as both of you apologize and admit that you’re wrong...” Kenneth trailed off. Nevertheless, his voice remained stern as he continued, “I’ll be lenient in meting out your punishment. What I want to see is to admit your mistake.”

However, the two children didn’t even take a second glance at each other.

They knew very well that all they needed to do was apologize, and their great-grandfather would not punish them.

Even so, they shook their heads simultaneously as if they had a telepathic connection.

At once, Kenneth’s blood pressure surged. He raised his voice and scolded, “You... What do you mean by shaking your heads?”

Franklin had a look of determination on his face as he stated, “I didn’t do anything wrong, so I’m not going to apologize to that woman.”

“Franklin didn’t do anything wrong,” Sophia chimed in.

On the other hand, Yara did not expect the twins to be so stubborn.

What people say is true indeed! Someone else's kids would never become my own. How dare they team up to bully me and still refuse to repent!

Yara scoffed internally. Since they're not my kids, they deserve to be punished.

"Grandpa, they are still young..." she muttered, fanning the flames. "Please don't take it to heart. They will understand by the time they grow up. I know that no one in this family acknowledges me, and no one likes me. Maybe I'm the crux of the problem!"

"I'm glad you know that," Franklin retorted. "Don't ever appear in front of Sophia and me. We hate it whenever we see you!"

I detest all these! Why is our mommy like this? What a joke!

When Kenneth heard how blatant Franklin was with his words, he had no reason to persuade himself not to punish them.

"How defiant! Since your dad doesn't have the time to discipline you, I will do it for him personally!" Kenneth yelled with a stern look on his face. "Gavin, hand me the cane."

Instantly, a look of worry crossed Gavin's face. "Old Mr. Bowers... Please don't do this!"

"I said, hand me the cane! Did you hear me?" Kenneth barked, glowering at Gavin. They became so defiant because they've never been disciplined before! Are you questioning my command?

Although Gavin felt concerned for the two children, he could not do anything to help. After all, he was only a housekeeper. Trembling, he went to bring the cane.

“Old Mr. Bowers, please think twice! Both of them are still so young...” Gavin muttered.

On the contrary, Yara merely sat on the couch without a word.

Holding the cane in his hand, Kenneth pointed it at Franklin and said, “Franklin, I’m going to ask you one last time... Are you going to apologize or not?”

Without a hint of hesitation, Franklin lifted his head and replied in a loud, clear voice, “No! If I’ve done something wrong, I’ll apologize. However, I did nothing wrong this time, so I’ll never apologize! You can punish me, Great-grandpa, and I will not resist.”

“Very well. As you wish!”

With that, Kenneth raised his arm and swung the cane.

Smack!

Franklin let out a grunt in pain.

Although Sophia did not feel the pain physically, tears began rolling down her cheeks.

Franklin did this all for me! However, just like him, I don't want to admit it's my mistake when it's not. I don't want to bow my head in defeat, and I don't want to call that woman my mommy!

Sophia couldn't watch them any longer. She hurried off to a corner and fished out a phone from her backpack. Immediately, she dialed a number that belonged to someone she regarded as her guardian angel.

As the ringing tone resounded through the phone, she felt her heart wrenching with anxiety.

Please pick up the phone! Quick!

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Natalie had just stepped out of the autopsy room.

Next to her, Effie put a palm over her mouth and nose even though she was wearing a mask. Still, she looked like she was about to throw up anytime soon.

"I can't stand this..." Effie muttered, waving her hand. "Heaven knows how long this body had been soaking in the sewer before they dug it up."

"Well, that's the reality of being a coroner. It's no easy job," said Natalie, patting Effie's shoulder gently. "Besides conducting autopsies, we also need to provide evidence for criminal investigation."

"I understand."

When Effie could not stand the stench any longer, she dragged Natalie along and headed to the restroom to freshen up.

Just then, Natalie's phone rang.

When she realized it was Sophia calling, her mood lightened in an instant, and she picked it up with a smile.

Immediately, the sound of Sophia crying came from the other side of the phone.

“Save Franklin...”

Upon hearing Sophia’s words, Natalie froze.

“What happened to Franklin?” Natalie felt a pang of heartache as her throat tightened. “Take your time and tell me what happened. I’m here. Everything’s going to be fine.”

For some reason, Sophia felt soothed and relieved by Natalie’s voice.

“Great-grandpa... H-He is punishing Franklin... Franklin didn’t do anything wrong...” Sophia mumbled hurriedly between sobs.

At that moment, she hated the way she stuttered when she spoke.

Nevertheless, Natalie understood what she wanted to tell her because she could vaguely hear the sound of Franklin being punished.

Although there were some noises in the background, she could somehow hear the sound of the cane clearly

The sound of one stroke after another was enough to infuriate Natalie to the point where her body trembled with anger.

At that moment, all she could think about was that no one could ever touch Franklin without her permission.

“I’m coming right now, Sophia.”

With that, Natalie hung up the phone.

Effie was taken aback when she noticed the fury in Natalie’s eyes. “Boss, what’s wrong? You look SO scary!”

“Effie, I’ll leave the data to you guys. I’ll email you the diagnosis report later,” said Natalie, turning off the tap. “Right now, I have something more important to handle.”

“Oh... All right.”

After that, Natalie turned around to leave.

Staring at Natalie’s retreating figure, Effie had a feeling that she looked more like she was going to fight someone.

As Natalie headed downstairs, she saw a police officer who was about to pull out the key to his motorcycle.

Stepping forward, she took the keys and the helmet from the police and said, "I'm Natalie Nichols, a senior coroner. I need to borrow this motorcycle for now. I'll return it afterward."

"Huh?" The police officer was puzzled.

However, she had put on the helmet, started the engine, and sped away.

Along the way, she traversed the roads while the wind blew through her long hair, the noise of the motorcycle's exhaust pipe roaring.

This was her first time riding a motorcycle in Dellmoor.

Although it had been a long time since she rode a motorcycle, she could overtake the other cars swiftly.

In the Bowers residence's living room, Kenneth was still punishing Franklin. Although he didn't exert much force, it hurt whenever the cane landed on Franklin.

Franklin's once delicate and adorable face was contorted in a grimace of pain.

Yet, he was adamant about suffering in silence. Till then, he had not let a single tear fall and would only let out a low grunt when he could not bear it.

Meanwhile, Yara merely watched on without saying a word.

I've disliked Franklin since a long time ago. He looks too much like that woman! Besides his features, his stubborn attitude is exactly like her! Heaven knows how much I have to put up with him over the years!

Now that she witnessed Franklin punished by Kenneth, she felt as if her pent-up frustration had been vented.

Soon, Kenneth could not bring himself to punish Franklin anymore. Therefore, he intentionally paused and asked, "Franklin, I've already punished you for your mistake. As long as you admit it and apologize, I won't continue anymore!"

"Apologize?" Franklin breathed as his face paled. In the next second, he directed a glare toward Yara and said, "Never!"