

## A Cue for Love chapter 546

### Chapter 546 Manipulation

“I will,” she promised with a firm nod.

Before entering the complex, the students were instructed to conduct a simple warm-up before dispersing into groups for a one-on-one lesson on the basics of skiing.

The intensity and the expanse of white as far as the eye can see conjured a strange sense of desolation despite its untainted beauty.

Sophia enjoyed playing with snow, though she did not express the same interest in learning how to ski. With the thought of finding the perfect snow for Natalie weighing heavily on her mind, she became more and more distracted from her lesson.

After quickly weighing the chances of the options available to her as her beady eyes darted back and forth, a cunning plan was formed in no time at all.

“Excuse me, sir,” Sophia bleated as she held up her hand to interrupt the instructor. “I need to pee.”

The male instructor hesitated, clearly uncomfortable.

“The restroom is behind that door. Can you manage on your own, young lady? Or would you like me to find you a female teacher?”

That was the last thing Sophia wanted. Her detour was for the sole purpose of achieving the mission of collecting the best snow she could find for her mother.

“I’ll be fine, mister,” Sophia assured him as she clenched her fists.  
“Don’t worry about me!”

“All right. Come back quickly, please. We’ll be waiting for you.”

After handing her ski poles to the instructor, she skipped her way to the little door indicated by the instructor with her backpack on her back.

Taking advantage of the narrow window of the instructor’s distraction, she went past the little door to a deserted stretch of untainted snow.

Momentarily swept away with awe, Sophia quivered with anticipation at the thought of what Natalie might say in the face of such a spectacular sight.

She remembered what her mother said about how excited she was to see what Sophia had in store for her.

I don’t like Yara at all. I’d much prefer being around Natalie. I’d do anything to make her smile.

“The other children are learning to ski, Sophia,” the woman on the bus remarked casually as she appeared and squatted down next to Sophia, interrupting her reverie. “What are you doing here all by yourself?”

Sophia jumped and looked up to discover that she did not recognize the woman.

“How do you know my name?” Sophia asked timidly. “I’ve never seen you before. Are you a new teacher?”

The woman laughed. “Yes, I’m a teacher. It’s my duty to be with you. It’s dangerous for you to stay here all by yourself.”

Sophia grimaced as she had intended to conduct her business in peace. Nevertheless, she nodded obediently at the adult's imposition.

Soon, Sophia forgot all about the woman marching next to her as she ran ahead to explore the area for the best possible snow she could find.

“What are you doing, Sophia?” the woman asked in spite of herself.

“I'm looking for snow!” replied Sophia enthusiastically. “I want to take back the best snow I can find for Mommy.”

“Mommy? Is Yara your mother?”

Sophia exclaimed scornfully. “Yara's not my mother but Natalie! She's so much better than Yara.”

The woman smiled grimly. Ah, same old Natalie. Still adept at manipulation. It doesn't matter if it's Yandel or this child, they will all fall prey to her sweet words and listen to her. This little girl has no blood relations with Natalie and yet she is so fiercely loyal to her. Now I understand what drove Yandel to lay a trap for Yara on Natalie's behalf that I had inadvertently stumbled into!

The woman stood deathly still, trying to compose herself at the thought of how Yandel broke her heart despite knowing the extent of how much she loved him.

To her disappointment, she discovered far too late that Yandel's feelings toward her had never been sincere.

“Natalie?” the woman, Melissa, repeated as her gaze seared with fury.

“What is it, miss?” asked Sophia timidly. “Your eyes look so fierce!”

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### Chapter 547 Sophia Is Missing

The tumbler in Sophia's hand dropped into the snow with a slosh.

“Teacher!”

Cutting off her scream, Melissa covered her mouth and nose with a cloth soaked in ether.

Sophia waved her arms frantically, trying to get anyone's attention, but her small body slowly weakened as she inhaled more ether into her system. Finally, losing consciousness in Melissa's arms.

A glint of satisfaction flashed across Melissa's eyes as she looked down at the unconscious Sophia.

“That woman is crafty.” She caressed Sophia's smooth, soft face, mumbling under her breath, “I can only lure Natalie to me with a small bait like you.”

Carrying Sophia into her arms, she left the ski area.

Meanwhile, a hundred miles away in a warm office somewhere, Yara sat elegantly sipping on her coffee and snacking on macarons prepared by famous chefs as she watched the camera footage transmitted from the ski area.

She had given Melissa a pair of earrings fixed with a mini spy camera to allow her to always be in control of the latter's whereabouts and actions.

It seemed like it wasn't a wasted effort in instigating Melissa recently.

This sister of a different mother of mine actually blamed Natalie for Yandel's disliking her. I can't believe she's so stupid.

"Ms. Yara, what should we do next?" asked a guy with a feminine face.

"We only need to support her from the dark." After another sip of coffee, she continued, "Melissa alone is not enough to topple Natalie, but if Sophia dies from the struggle between Natalie and Melissa, what comes next will be interesting."

Gale watched as cruel words came out of Yara's mouth, despite the innocent smile on her face.

At that moment, he finally understood King's decision to collude with Yara.

Despite her lack of powerful background and capabilities, she made up for it with her tenacity.

If she saw an opportunity, she would sink her fangs into her prey and not let go until she had her hands on it.

Her cruelty could be the reason for King to collude with Yara, hoping she could sink her poisonous fangs into Natalie and Dream.

"Samuel hates me, but he loves the twins, especially that little girl. If she dies, he will never forgive Natalie."

Yara laughed evilly, "Will Natalie kills herself from guilt if she finds out her biological daughter survived five years ago just to die in her own hands?"

She couldn't contain the glee blooming in her heart and the curling of the corners of her lips at the thought.

Gale thought that women were indeed the cruelest kind of humans on the planet as he watched the evil smile on Yara's face.

The skiing session in the evening had ended.

Xavian was holding onto the hand of a little girl dressed in red. "Sophia, are you tired? I have some chocolates with me. Do you want some?"

"Yes!"

The wind's howling had distorted the child's answer leaving Franklin unable to hear it distinctly.

Franklin and Clayton immediately assumed the little girl was Sophia when they saw Xavian holding onto her hand. Without much thought, they joined the group gathered at the assembly point.

Xavian removed his snow hat and ski goggles and searched his pocket for chocolate before handing it over to the little girl. "Here you go, Sophia."

"Okay."

The little girl removed her snow hat and goggles to eat the chocolate, finally revealing her face.

"Daisy?" Xavian was dumbstruck. He hadn't thought that the little girl he had been holding onto the entire time wasn't Sophia. "How come it's you? Where is Sophia?"

Baffled at his question, Daisy paused and answered with a mouthful of chocolate, "I don't know. You're the one who held onto my hand and asked me to follow you. You told me to stay right beside you."

Franklin and Clayton frowned when they saw Xavian had been holding onto the wrong girl the entire time.

“She’s not Sophia.” Franklin began to panic. “Where is she then?”

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### Chapter 548 Kidnap

“Yeah! Where’s Sophia?” Clayton looked around the vicinity to search for Sophia, but there was no sight of her anywhere.

“Where did she go?” Franklin asked, panic in his voice, “Could an accident have happened to her?”

“We can’t be twiddling our thumbs here like idiots. The temperature will drop even further when night falls.” Xavian said gravely, “Sophia might not survive the night with only a ski suit and without food.”

The boys immediately reported her disappearance to their teacher.

The teacher was stunned to hear Sophia from the Bowers family was missing. Feeling nervous, the teacher instantly contacted the ski resort worker and launched a search and rescue.

Worried about Sophia’s safety, Xavian, Franklin, and Clayton joined the search party and decided to split up, hoping they could cover more grounds and find her soon.

The temperature at the ski area dropped tremendously as the sun set, taking its warm glow with it. Panic and dread began to set in when the boys still couldn’t find Sophia. Thus, they started yelling as they searched, wishing she would call out.

“Sophia, where are you?”

“Sophia, stop playing tricks and come out. Call out if you can hear my voice.”

“Sophia, come out!”

Only the boys’ voices echoed against the snow-covered ground of the ski area.

Suddenly, Franklin tripped on something hard, lost his balance, faceplanted into the snow.

When he looked over his shoulder at the object, it turned out to be Sophia’s precious tumbler. She had promised Natalie to fill it with snow and show it to the latter.

The boys had even suggested holding the tumbler for her earlier, but she insisted to hold onto it.

Sophia won’t just leave the tumbler here under normal circumstances. Something must have happened to her.

“Xavian, Clayton, come over here quick. Come look at this!”

Franklin shouted for Xavian and Clayton. The two quickly raced to his side. When they spotted the tumbler in his hand, their expressions turned grim.

Finally, they knew that Sophia’s disappearance wasn’t because she got lost. Something must have happened to her.

Xavian took out his phone from his pocket and gave Natalie a call.



His call was picked up almost instantly. Natalie's gentle voice sounded from the phone.

"Xavian, are you guys done skiing?" Natalie chuckled, "You guys must be freezing from the cold. I had Gavin prepare some steaks, so let's have steaks tonight--"

"Mommy, something bad happened." Xavian interrupted Natalie urgently.

"What happened?" Natalie asked somberly, the joy in her tone gone.

"Sophia is missing." Panic laced his voice. "She was skiing with us earlier, but we couldn't find her when it was time to gather. Franklin, Clayton, and I had searched for her for a long while, but we still couldn't find her. We suspected that she didn't get lost, but was kidnapped, instead."

Natalie could feel her stomach dropped at Xavian's speculation.

She knew Xavian and Clayton were mature and responsible children. They wouldn't make any wild guesses before they were sure.

"Mommy, what should we do?" Xavian felt a wave of acid well up in his belly from feeling anxious. He was merely a five-year-old and felt helpless in such a situation.

"Did you manage to see any clue?"

Xavian shook his head and answered, "Mommy, we didn't even get a look at the bad guy. We had no idea who had taken her nor her situation at the moment."

Natalie's heart raced, feeling a sense of dread creeping up on her.

Yet, she forced herself to remain calm.

“Sophia will be fine.” She paused to inhale a deep breath. “If someone had kidnapped Sophia, the kidnapper's target would be either me or Samuel. “Listen to me carefully. I want you to stop searching for Sophia and go back to the assembly point. Listen to your teacher and take care of your own safety. Can you do that?”

“Sophia has already fallen into the kidnapper's hands. We can't risk another one of you falling into their hands. The situation will be too disadvantageous to us.”

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### Chapter 549 Remain Calm And Clear Headed

“Got it.” Xavian hung up the phone and relayed Natalie's instruction to Franklin and Clayton.

“We have to remain calm in this situation.” Xavian cast Franklin and Clayton a sober glance. “Let's head back to the assembly point and join the teacher and the other students. We have to ensure our safety and not give Mommy and Daddy any more trouble.”

Despite Franklin's and Clayton's concern for Sophia, they followed Natalie's instructions, knowing they couldn't contribute any help in the search.

The boys dragged their feet as they returned to the assembly point. They had a crestfallen look on their faces.

Natalie's expression turned grim after she hung up the phone.

Yandel noticed the change in her expression after she picked up the call.

“Boss, what's wrong? you don't look too good.”

“Sophia had gone missing. The boys suspected someone had kidnapped her.” Natalie ordered, “I want you to assign our men to search for Sophia now.”

“Understood.” Yandel instantly carried out her order.

Feeling the intense anxiousness in her gut, she couldn't sit still.

Even though Sophia wasn't her biological daughter, she had considered the little girl as one of her own. It was difficult for her to stay clear-headed without knowing anything about Sophia's current situation.

The memory and pain of losing the twins five years ago surfaced in her mind.

Ever since her first meeting with Sophia at the airport, she couldn't help but fall in love with the adorable little girl.

Sophia was like her tail. The little girl had always followed her everywhere. When she looked over her shoulder, the child would call out “Mommy” softly.

She was about to inform Samuel about Sophia's disappearance when her phone rang.

Looking at the screen, she noted it was an unfamiliar number.

Without much hesitance, she accepted the call. “Hello?”

“Natalie, have you realized the precious treasure you’ve lost?” A scornful feminine voice sounded from the phone. Natalie could even hear the smile in her voice.

Precious treasure ?

Sophia immediately came to her mind.

“You’re the one who has Sophia in your hands.” Natalie asked urgently, “How is she? What have you done to her?”

Satisfaction and glee grew inside the woman’s heart, hearing the worry in Natalie’s voice. The woman taunted, “You’re not doing too bad as a stepmom. You’re even so worried about someone else’s daughter, and portraying to be a great mother.”

“How is Sophia? If you’re aware of her identity, then you should know the consequence of laying your hands on her,” Natalie warned coldly.

“Natalie, you better watch your mouth when you talk to me.” The feminine voice paused briefly. “Sophia is still in my hands. If you dare to threaten me again, I’ll kill her then myself if I’m pissed. Your threats are pointless to me. So save it.”

Natalie couldn’t see Sophia’s current situation through the phone.

However, she could hear Sophia’s terrified sobs in the background once the woman stopped speaking.

“It hurts. It hurts.”

Sophia knew the crazy woman was on the phone with Natalie. She didn’t want the latter to be worried, so she tried to suppress her cries.

Despite the soft cries, Natalie's heart still ached for her.

She picked up a utility knife from her desk and dragged it along her arm. Feeling the pain in her arm and seeing the blood flowing from the wound, she finally managed to calm down.

That woman has no control over her emotions. She might even be crazy. I have to make sure I don't make a single wrong move to bring Sophia home safe and sound.

Natalie drawled out her words, "Even though I don't know who you are, I don't think your goal is to die with her."

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### Chapter 550 Black List

"Of course." The woman didn't deny Natalie's claim. "But how your little girl fares will depend on you. It will depend on how far you're willing to go for her."

Natalie was sure she was the kidnapper's target.

"I'm willing to do anything. Tell me what I have to do," Natalie answered without even a bit of hesitation.

"I'll give you an address. I want you to come to the address. Only you alone and no one else. If I find out you have Samuel or someone else following you, I'll kill your precious little girl right away."

The woman spoke slowly and arrogantly. Her distorted voice sounded like a witch.

“Do you think your relationship with Samuel will still be the same with Sophia’s death? So come alone and don’t disappoint me. Let me have some fun. Don’t make a decision you’ll regret.”

The woman ended the call after that.

This woman is a maniac!

She kidnapped Sophia because the latter was an easier target compared to the boys. Besides, she wanted to drive a wedge in my relationship with Samuel by using Sophia as bait. Guilt will engulf me if something happens to Sophia.

Feeling the pain in her arm, she remained clear-headed.

Without treating the wound on her arm, she shot to her feet and left her office.

Yandel met Natalie in the hallway once he finished assigning tasks to his men. Noticing the bleeding wound on her arm, he frowned. “Boss, what happened to your arm? Let me treat it for you.”

“Leave it. I did it to myself.”

Under his stunned gaze, she said, “Sophia’s kidnappers contacted me earlier. She wanted me to meet her privately. I can’t bring anyone with me, including you and Samuel.”

“You’re going alone? You’re digging your own grave!”

“I know.”

She wasn't dumb. She was aware Sophia was just a bait while she was the target. If she went, it was almost a certainty that she would die. Despite knowing that, she would still go and save Sophia.

“Boss, you-”

“Don't be so pessimistic.” The corners of her lips quirked into a knowing smile. “Everyone has weaknesses, so does she. “I'm uncertain about her identity, but I just have to bet my life on it. I need your help with two tasks. Both are crucial, so you have to follow my words to the book. Understand?”

“The boys must have told Samuel too if I knew about it. Knowing him, he'll follow me. I need you to stop him no matter what. He and his men are good at what they do, but I worry Sophia will get hurt from the altercation.”

Stopping Samuel was the most difficult task of all in Yandel's mind. There was a possibility of accidentally hurting Samuel in the process.

However, Yandel knew Natalie well enough, so he still agreed to help her despite the difficulty in the task.

“Got it.”

“The next thing I need your help is...”

Yandel's expression turned dour once she finished.

The second task was slightly easier than the first. The problem was it was related to the most crucial bit of the whole plan.

“Give me the keys to your car.”

Natalie took the elevator to the parking lot and got in the red Ferrari. A stomp at the pedal and the sports car zoomed out of the parking lot and across the streets.

Natalie knew Samuel very well.

Samuel got a call about Sophia's disappearance from Franklin halfway through his meeting.

He contacted Natalie almost immediately, but his calls kept getting declined.

Rising from his seat at the head of the table, he gave Natalie's number a few more tries but ended up with the same outcome.

On his fifth call, he was greeted with an empty, cold mechanical voice.

He knew Natalie had not only declined his calls but had blocked him.