

Feel the Way You Feel, My Love Chapter 1351

A gleam flashed across Justin's eyes. He smiled and gave her a glass of water.

"Mrs. Thompson is just being nice."

"What?" Joyce's confusion deepened.

"Nice? What do you mean?"

"It's a secret."

Justin took a sip of water, and he seemed unwilling to reveal more.

Surely, Natalie has done that because she wants me to get together with Joyce.

That's why she'd gotten up after getting Joyce to sit down. I bet she was giving us the opportunity to bond!

Well, it seems like a lot of people are on my side.

Not only have Mr. and Mrs. Rivers given me their blessings to be with Joyce, but Joyce's best friend is also on my side! Evidently, Stanley is such an unlikeable person.

However, that's good, though.

Everyone Joyce cares about is on my side.

Perhaps, she'd want to be with me because of that.

By then, Stanley will finally get eliminated.

In fact, Stanley should be gotten rid of since he'd only hurt Joyce, he shouldn't have her. I'm the only one who deserves her. Soon, Justin left for the hotel he was staying at after lunch.

Coincidentally, he was staying at the same hotel Natalie was staying at.

Besides, he also got a presidential suite to himself.

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According to Joyce, Justin was only going to be there for a few days. Since he wasn't planning on staying in Baycoast for long, he'd only been staying at a hotel instead of buying a house.

Natalie wasn't bothered by that.

After washing her hands in the bathroom, she went to Joyce's room and knocked on the door.

"Come in" Joyce uttered from inside the room.

Natalie pushed the door open and walked in.

"Hey, Joyce."

"Hey, Nat."

At that moment, Joyce was looking through some photos.

When she heard Natalie's voice, she raised her head and smiled at her.

Acknowledging her response, Natalie walked up to her and lowered her gaze toward Joyce's knees.

"Is that a photo album?"

"Yes. I've just taken it out because I have a sudden urge to look at the photos from the past and reminisce it."

Joyce lowered her gaze and smiled faintly.

Natalie furrowed her brows upon seeing that.

Although she's smiling, there isn't a hint of delight in her eyes.

Instead, her smile was rather bitter.

After clenching and unclenching her fists, Natalie asked, "Joyce, what happened?"

"What?" Joyce looked at her in puzzlement.

"What do you mean by that?" Natalie approached her before taking a seat.

"Well, you've been acting strangely for the past few days. Tell me, Joyce. Tell me what happened to you. Please answer me, okay? My trip to Baycoast this time around isn't just about seeing Mr. and Mrs. Rivers, but I've actually come to see you. Do you know how much I've been worrying about you? That's why I've come here to look for you and ask you what happened."

Joyce felt even more guilty when she saw how concerned Natalie looked.

After clutching the photo album in her hands for a while, she took a deep breath and said, "I'm sorry, Nat,

but I really can't tell you. I'm doing something, but if I were to tell you, you'll surely stop me from doing it. This thing that I'm doing, I can't stop. Otherwise, all my previous efforts would be in vain. So, Nat, could you please stop asking me about it?"

Joyce looked straight into Natalie's eyes and added, "Once I'm done with it, you'll know all about it without me telling you"

Natalie's frown deepened when she heard that.

"I'll stop you if you were to tell me, you said? Well, it seems like you're not doing something decent, are you?"

Joyce's eyes flickered, and she lowered her head in silence. She was basically admitting it.

Natalie rubbed her temples.

"That's exactly why I'm worried about you, Joyce."

"I know, Nat." Joyce smiled faintly.

"I know you care about me, and I'm truly happy about that. However, you've got to understand that everyone has a secret to keep, and everyone has something they must do for themselves. I've already planned the thing I'm doing, and I won't change my mind, Nat. So, please stop asking further, okay? What if my plan fails because you're asking too much about it? If it fails, all my previous efforts would be for nothing, no?"

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Natalie was overwhelmed by a sense of melancholia.

Only after a while did she say, "All right, then. I won't ask about what you're going to do. However, I have a question, and I need you to answer me. This thing you're doing, does it have something to do with Stanley?"

Joyce moved her lips, and it seemed like she wasn't willing to say anything in response.

However, her heart softened when she saw Natalie's pleading eyes.

I'd have to distance myself from Stanley so that Nat wouldn't have an idea about what I'm going to do.

She nodded and answered, "Yes. It has something to do with Stanley, albeit not much."

Natalie nodded.

“I’ve heard enough. Okay, then. I’ll respect you and stop asking. However, promise me you’ll return to J City after you’re done with your plan, okay? Come back to our company and be the vice president. That position is only for you. Do you understand?”

She patted Joyce’s shoulder and continued, “Back then, we’ve already said that we’d build the company together and establish our own haute couture brand. Since our dream isn’t even halfway completed yet, I hope you are not letting me complete it on my own because that’ll just be selfish. That’s all, Joyce. I’ll wait for you in J City.”

With that, she smiled faintly and left Joyce’s room.

Tears welled up in Joyce’s eyes as she watched her leave.

A while later, she started sobbing, and she murmured to herself, “I’m sorry, Nat. I’m destined not to be able to achieve that dream of ours. I’d have to break my promise to you. I’m sorry.”

Right then, a teardrop dripped down and landed on one of the photos in the photo album.

Coincidentally, the teardrop fell on one of Stanley’s photos.

In that photo, Stanley was smiling brightly and joyfully.

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That was how Stanley used to be.

From what I can remember, that was when Stanley was truly happy in life, and that’s the Stanley I miss the most.

At that time, his parents were still around, so he was still lively and cheerful.

But now...

Well, there’s no going back now.

There really is no going back...

Joyce closed the photo album and took a deep breath.

It’s almost time now.

Two more days till everything is complete.

By then, I can finally give Stanley a proper explanation.

Joyce wiped away her tears and got up to keep the photo album in the drawer before leaving the room.

Natalie didn't stay around the Rivers family for long.

Instead, she'd already left at around two that afternoon because she wanted to buy some local delicacies before going back to J City.

The main reason she'd gone there was to ask Joyce in person.

However, she had no choice but to leave because Joyce didn't want to reveal anything to her.

After she was done shopping for local delicacies, she went back to the hotel.

By then, it was already evening. She had her dinner and started working on a blueprint in her bed.

At the same time, she was getting ready to sleep.

By nine that night, she finally felt sleepy, so she put her pencil and sketchpad aside before falling asleep.

The next morning, Natalie was woken up by a phone call.

After checking the caller ID, she saw it was the branch president of J City's Design Association calling.

Natalie immediately became wide awake. She quickly sat up straight and answered the call.

"Hi, Mr. Horner"

"Ms. Smith, did I wake you up?" the middle-aged man on the other end of the call asked.

Natalie smiled.

"Oh, no. I was already up. Is there something I can do for you, Mr. Horner?"

The branch president smiled as well.

"Yes. J City is going to hold a costume designer competition for youngsters soon, and we'd like to have you be the judge. This competition is specially held for the young and

talented designers. The top ten participants will be awarded with the chance to train in foreign countries.”

“Oh, I see.” Natalie nodded.

“Mr. Horner, may I know why am I being considered for the role?”

“It’s because of your achievement. Although you didn’t win the international competition last time around,

you weren’t eliminated. Instead, you only pulled out due to health reasons. We know who’d end up winning the competition if you didn’t pull out. At the national level, you’re the best designer now. Internationally, your status isn’t too bad as well. You’re on par with the designer that vanished a year ago, Mina. Hence, you’re more than qualified to be the judge.”

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“Erm...”

Natalie stuck her tongue out in guilt when Mr. Horner mentioned Mina’s name.

That’s right. I have yet to tell the public that I’m Mina, the young designer who rose to fame last year.

Her mentor, Mercede, had instructed her to hide her identity as Mina when she returned home.

He wanted her to carve a path out for herself as an independent designer in her home country and to only announce to the public that she was Mina after making a name for herself.

However, she had almost forgotten that she herself was Mina after burying that identity for so long.

Looks like it’s time to tell the world about Mina’s true identity.

Combining my current identity as Ms.

Smith together with Mina will surely be a huge stepping stone to my career as a designer.

With that in mind, Natalie took a deep breath and replied, “Mr. Horner, I get what you mean. I’m willing to become one of the judges for this competition, but there’s another competition waiting for me after this. It’s Aplot’s Youth Design Competition. I wouldn’t

have been able to attend as one of the judges for this competition if not for Mr. Moore. I'm just worried about time conflict."

She would agree to be one of the judges for the competition if time allows.

Mr. Horner grew silent upon her words.

After a while, he said, "I've heard of Aploth's Youth Design Competition. It will be held at the beginning of next month, about seven days from now. I'm afraid our competition will conflict with your schedule since it

will be held in the middle of next month."

It would take at least a few months for the competition to wrap up since there would be a couple of elimination rounds before they could decide on the winner, and each elimination round would take at least a Enter title...

week.

Hence, there was no way Natalie could juggle her responsibility as a judge for both competitions.

"Then I'm so sorry, Mr. Horner. I cannot become J City's judge. After all, I promised Aploth's Youth Design Competition first."

Natalie scratched her head and apologized.

Mr. Horner smiled.

"It's okay. Our competition is nothing compared to Aploth's Youth Design Competition. How about this? You can join us after the competition since ours will start two weeks later than Aploth's Youth Design Competition. I think we will already be at the final round by the time you join.

You can be one of our judges for the final round then, "The final round?"

Natalie was stunned.

Mr. Horner nodded.

"That's right. The results will be even more convincing since you've judged for Aploth's Youth Design Competition before this. You'll be more than qualified for this job."

Natalie figured it would be rude to reject Mr. Horner at this point.

Hence, she smiled and nodded, "Okay. I'll do it."

“It’s settled then.”

Mr.Horner was all smiles upon her words.

Natalie hummed in response.

“Sure thing.”

“Okay then.I’ll leave you alone.I’ll call you again after Aploth’s Youth Design Competition.”

Mr.Horner hung up the phone right after.

Natalie put her phone down and couldn’t help but chuckle as she noticed the line going flat.She then got out of bed and went to wash up.

After breakfast, she packed up and left for J City.Her flight would be at one in the afternoon.Her bodyguard had bought her her plane tickets in advance yesterday.

Just as Natalie was almost done packing, the doorbell rang.

Natalie zipped up her luggage and made her way to the door.

“Who is it?”

“It’s me, Nat.”

Joyce’s voice sounded through the intercom.

Natalie smiled and opened the door.

Joyce grinned as she stood at the door with a bag in hand.

“Nat, I want to give you something since I know you’ll be going home today.”

“Give me something?”

Natalie’s gaze landed on Joyce’s bag.

“Do you mean this?”

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“Yeah.” Joyce handed her the bag.

“My dad made strawberry jam and apricot jam yesterday night.He told me to bring it over since it’s your favorite.You can take it home and let Mr.Shane try it too.” Natalie smiled at her words.

“That’s great, Joyce.Thank your dad for me.”

“Don’t mention it.” Joyce waved her hand.

“This is nothing compared to what you’ve given us.”

“It’s not the same.The things I gifted you were store- bought, but these are hand-made with love by Mr.Rivers,” Natalie replied as she took the bag from Joyce.

She could tell that the bag was full of jams based on how heavy the bag was.

Mr.Rivers must have stayed up all night preparing all these.

“It’s all the same to me.” Joyce shrugged.

Natalie stepped aside to make way for her.

“Alright, Joyce.Come on in.”

Joyce grunted in response and followed her into the room.She glanced at the luggage bag in the room and said, “Are you done packing?”

“Yes, My flight will be at one in the afternoon.I’m planning to leave earlier in case of traffic jam “ Natalie replied.

Joyce nodded.

“Wise choice.Traffic will be heavy since it will be the new year soon.”

“Yeah.That’s why I’d rather leave earlier.”

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Natalie placed the bag of jams into her other luggage.

The both of them chatted for a while longer before Joyce left.

“Okay, Nat.I need to visit Justin next door as he too will be leaving Baycoast today.”

“Justin’s leaving?”

Natalie was puzzled.

Joyce nodded.

“Yeah. His schedule would be pretty tight next year since his company launched not too long ago. Taking a few days off to visit my family here is already his limit, so he’ll have to head back today. After all, his company still needs him.”

“That’s true.” Natalie nodded.

Joyce stood up.

“I’ll be leaving then.”

“Wait.”

Natalie suddenly called out to her.

Joyce paused.

“What is it?”

“Joyce, what do you think of Justin?” Natalie stood up.

Joyce stared at her in confusion.

“What do I think of him? Why do you ask, Nat?”

“Because it’s important. I want to know if you plan to get together with Justin.”

Natalie stared at her.

Joyce widened her eyes as she was taken aback by Natalie’s words.

“What? Get together with Justin? Nat, what are you talking about? Why would I get together with Justin?”

She then waved her hand and smiled.

Natalie must have gotten it all wrong.

However, Natalie was staring at her with a straight face.

“Joyce, don’t you know?”

“Know what?” Joyce blinked.

Natalie sighed.

“Justin likes you.”

Everything clicked for Natalie at the moment. She didn't know that Joyce wasn't aware of Justin's feelings for her before this.

As expected, Joyce gasped in surprise at her words.

“What are you talking about? J-Justin likes me?” She stuttered.

Natalie shook her head helplessly.

“Gosh, you're so dense. How could you not know? It's so obvious.”

Joyce plopped down on the sofa, dumbfounded.

“How would I know? We've parted ways for more than 20 years. I've forgotten all about him. I wouldn't have remembered him if he hadn't shown up all of a sudden. Why would it even cross my mind that Justin fancies me?”

Okay. I'll admit I sensed Justin had feelings for me when we were watching the movie that day.

But Joyce quickly brushed off that idea soon after.

Why would Justin fancy me when we've parted ways for twenty years? Moreover, we were only kids back then when we parted ways.

What do kids know about love? It wasn't until now that she knew Justin harbored feelings for her.

“It's true. I thought he didn't like you too at first, but I can see that he's serious. He really does like you. So,

Joyce, what do you think of him?”

Natalie sat down beside her.

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Joyce opened her mouth.

“W-What do I think of him?”

“Yes, Are you planning to accept Justin, or...”

“No. I cannot accept his feelings,”

Joyce exclaimed.

“I don’t love him.”

“Joyce, I know you don’t love him. Stanley is the man you love, but you know how he is. The both of you will never end up together. As your best friend, I don’t want to see you wallow in sorrow. I want you to be happy,

so I hope you will turn your attention away from Stanley and look at the people around you. There are lots of other men out there worthy of your love”

Natalie patted her shoulder.

“Joyce, you have to understand, it’s been a mistake from the start for the two of you. Stanley’s never going to come around no matter how long you wait for him. He shouldn’t be the only one in your eyes. Think about your parents. They wouldn’t want to see you in so much pain because of Stanley. They hoped for you to find happiness in someone else’s arms. I know you don’t love Justin, but why don’t you give him a chance and try to love him?”

“Try to love him?”

Joyce lowered her gaze.

Natalie nodded.

“Yes. Who knows? He might be the one for you. Didn’t they all say it’s better to get together with someone who loves you rather than someone you love? So Joyce, try stepping out of your comfort zone and give Enter title...

him a chance.”

Joyce’s eyes dimmed as she shook her head.

“No. That’s not possible. I can’t try to love someone new nor start a new relationship with someone else anymore.”

“Why not?” Natalie frowned.

“Joyce, why are you being so adamant? You know that Stanley is...”

“It’s not that, Nat.”

Joyce smiled bitterly.

“It’s not because of Stanley that I can’t fall in love with someone new. It’s just because I don’t have the time and effort to do so anymore.”

“What do you mean?”

Natalie’s heart skipped a beat upon her words. She didn’t know why but she had a bad feeling about it.

Joyce smiled and stood up.

“It’s nothing. You’ll know soon enough. Okay Nat, I really have to go now.”

With that, she turned around and headed for the door.

However, Joyce’s head began to spin after taking a few steps. She paused in her step and blacked out in the next moment.

Natalie was shocked upon seeing that.

“Joyce!”

She jumped up from her seat and rushed over to catch Joyce.

Natalie managed to catch her before she fell to the ground.

Joyce opened her eyes. She saw the worried look on Natalie’s face and smiled.

“Thank you, Nat.”

She pulled herself up with Natalie’s help.

Natalie pursed her lips and stared at her.

“Joyce, what happened to you just now? You scared me out of my wits.”

“I’m fine. Probably anemic. It has been happening to me from time to time these two days. My stomach even feels funny these days.”

Joyce rubbed her belly as she spoke.

Natalie narrowed her eyes.

“Anemic? Your stomach feels funny? Are you sick?”

She recalled what Joyce had said just now about lacking the time and effort to start a new relationship and

couldn't help but wonder if she had fallen ill.

Nevertheless, Joyce shook her head.

"No."

"This won't do. You need to see the doctor."

With that, Natalie grabbed her hand, wanting to take her to the hospital.

Joyce pulled away.

"No need for that, Nat. I'll go to the hospital myself. You don't need to come with me. Don't you have a plane to catch? Go on. Traffic is going to be heavy if you don't leave now."

"On your own?"

Natalie stared at her. She didn't believe Joyce would go to the doctor on her own.

Joyce smiled as she knew what was going through Natalie's mind.

"Don't worry, Nat. I will go to the hospital this afternoon. You can text me in the afternoon if you don't believe me. I'll send you my medical report then, okay?"